

Cervantes. - The Force of Blood.







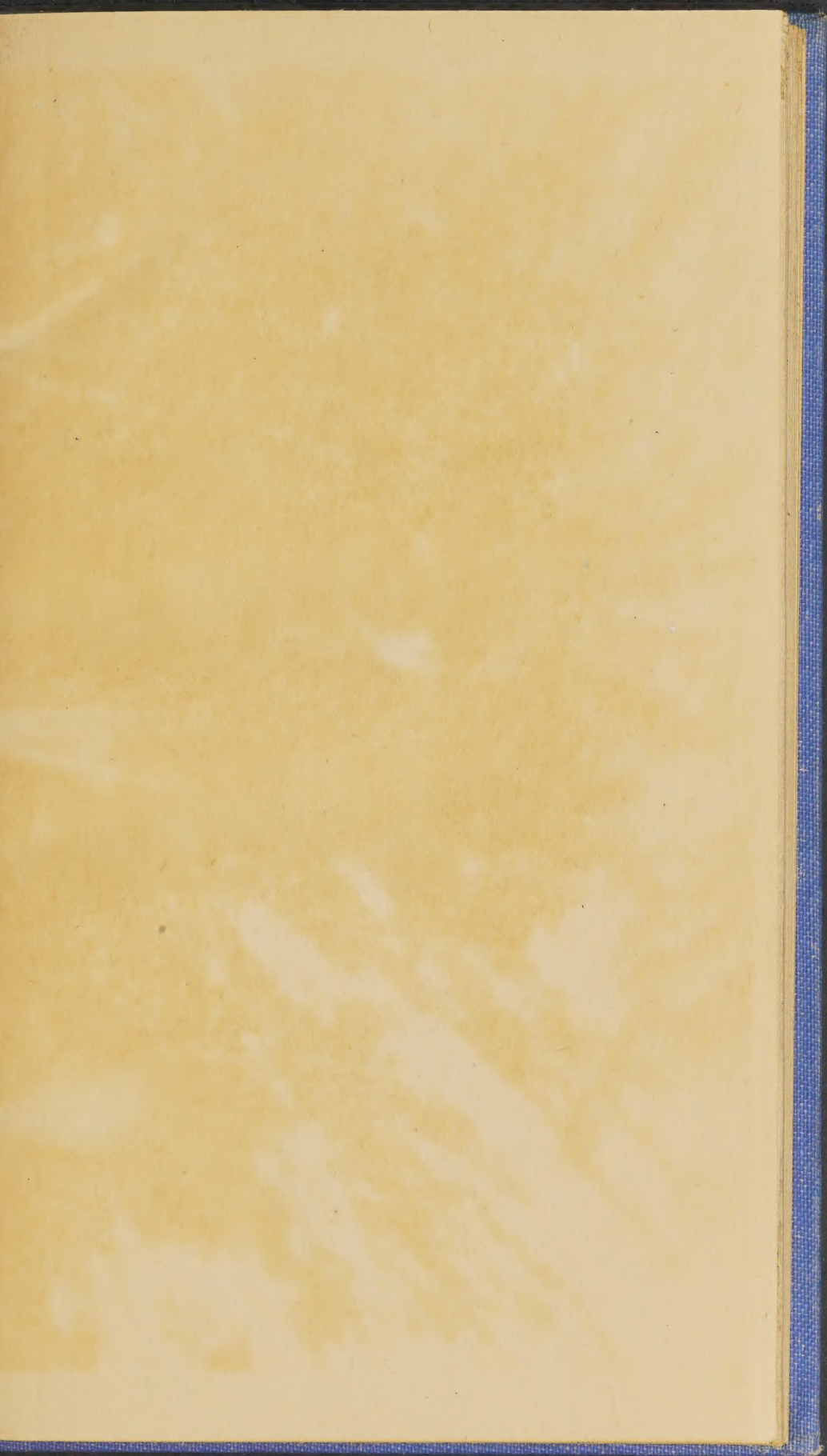
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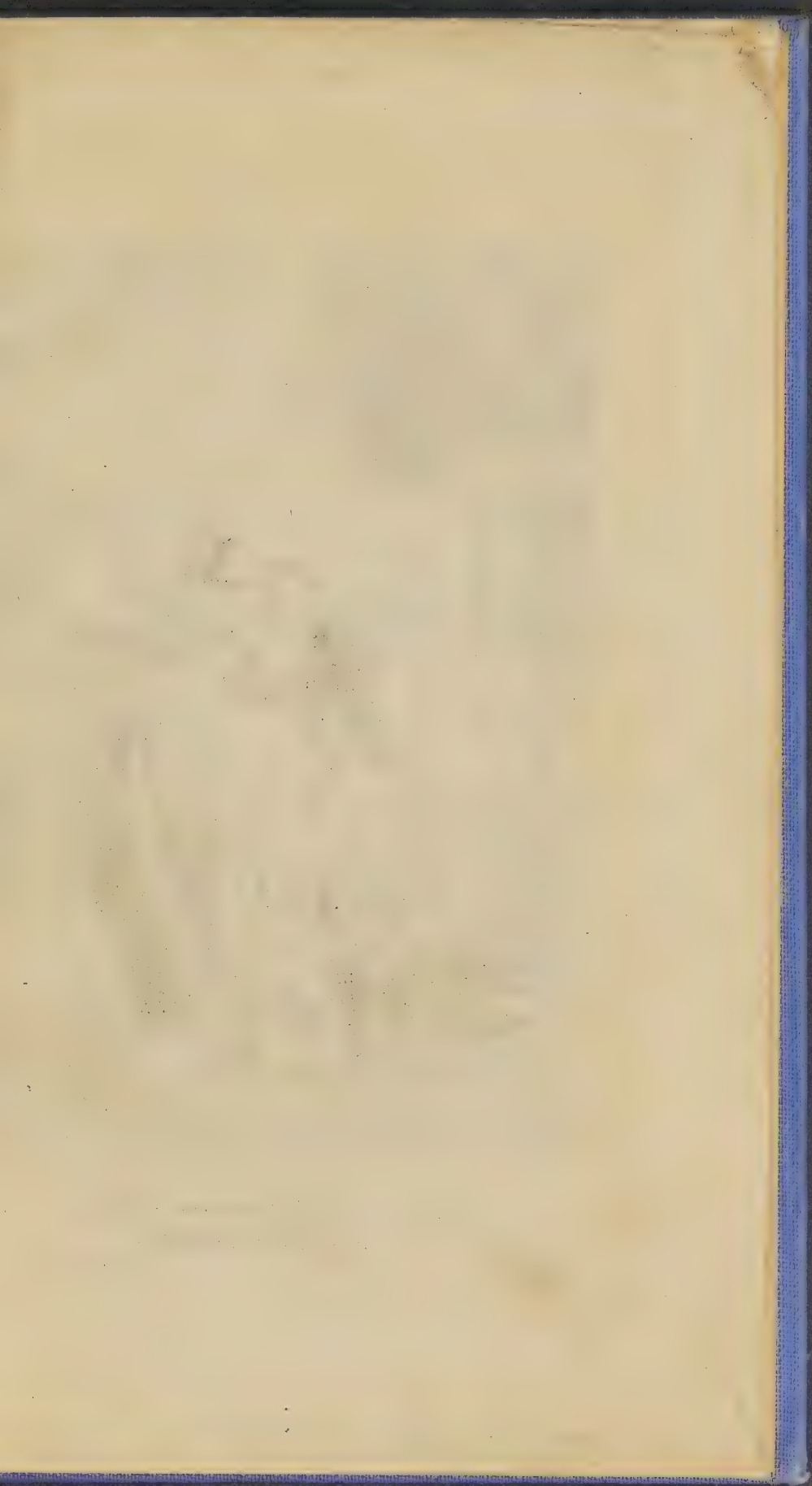
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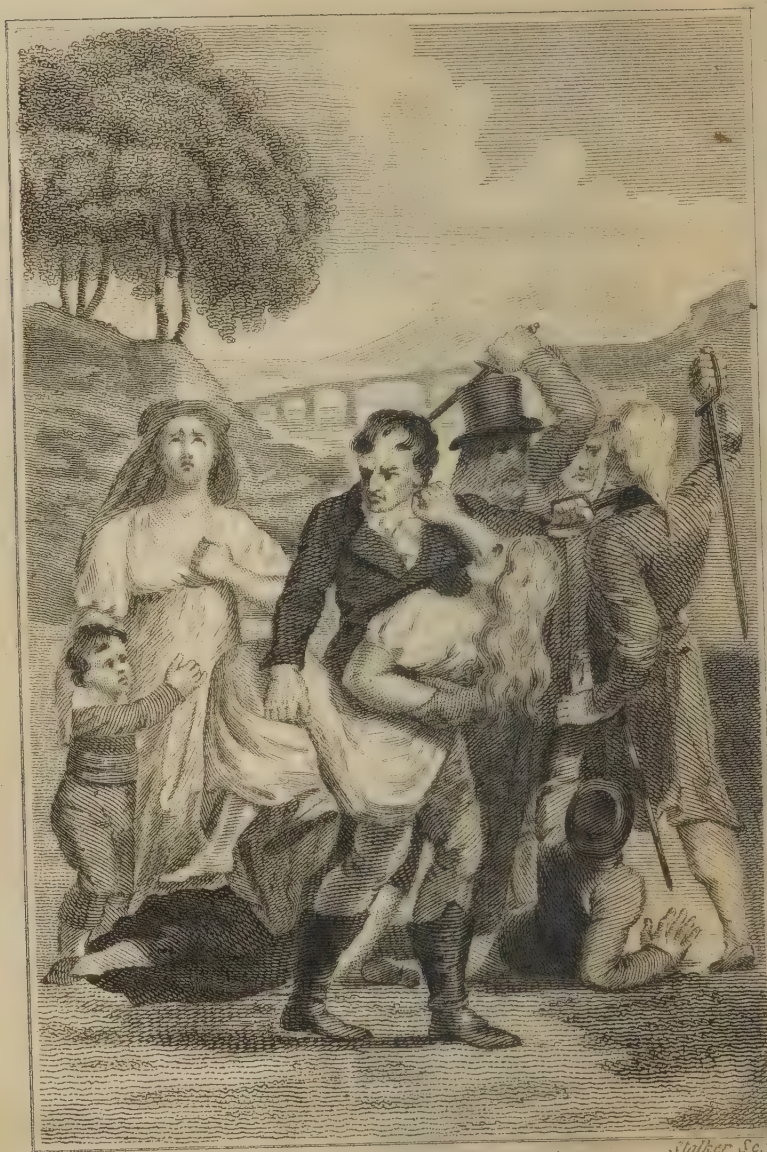
THE
FORCE OF BLOOD.

A NOVEL.

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THE
FORCE OF BLOOD.
A NOVEL.





*"To Ravish Julia, was But"
"the Work of a Few Minutes"*

—See page, 6

THE
FORCE OF BLOOD,
A NOVEL.

TRANSLATED FROM THE SPANISH

OF

MIGUEL DE CERVANTES SAAVEDRA,

The celebrated Author of

DON QUIXOTTE.

EMBELLISHED WITH AN ELEGANT ENGRAVING.

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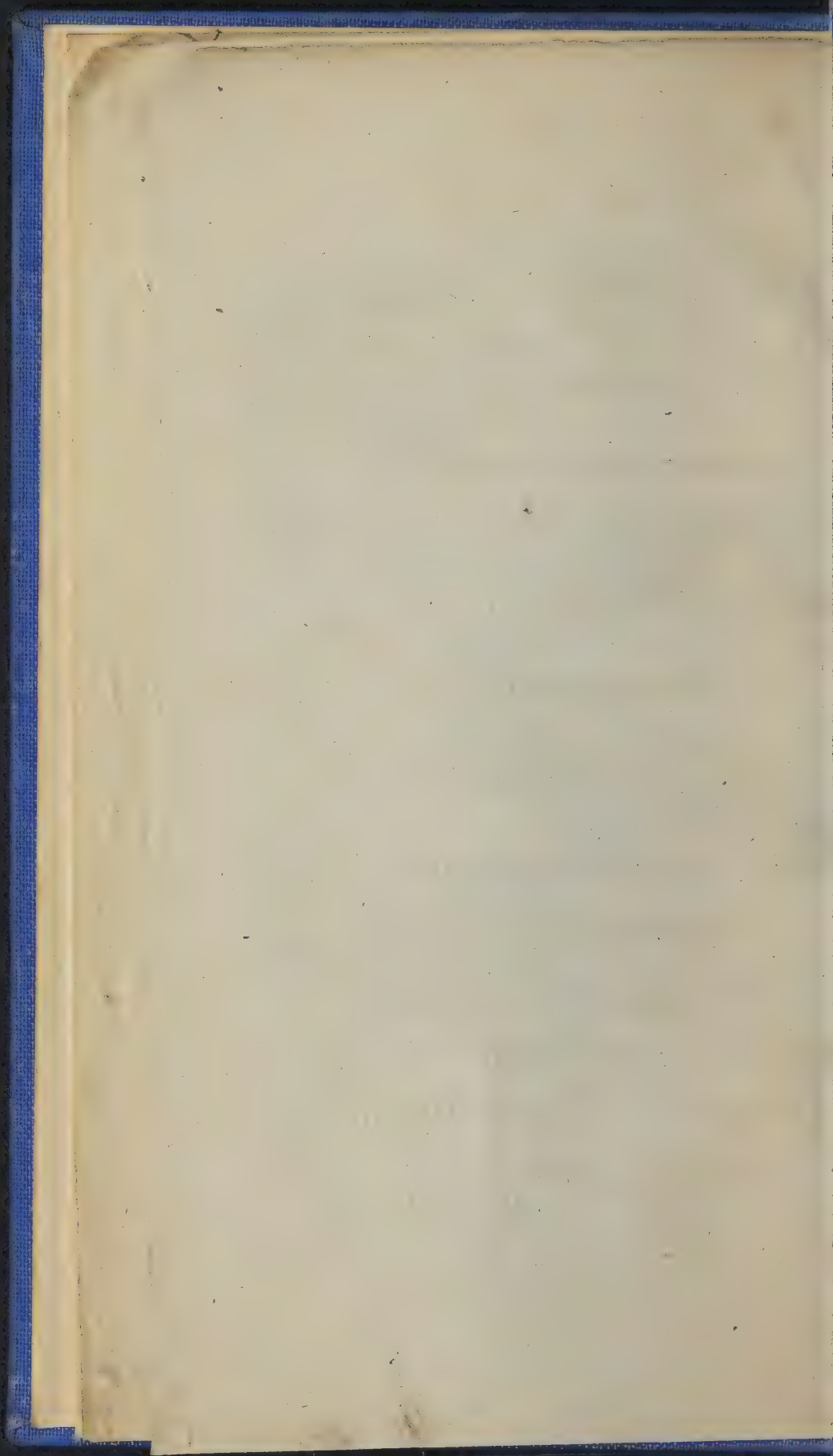
By T. Gillet, Salisbury-Square ;

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OTHER BOOKSELLERS.

1800.



THE
FORCE OF BLOOD.

A NOBLEMAN, of ancient family,
in Toledo, kept at home by the
sultry heat of the day, wished to enjoy
with his family the pleasure of a sum-
mer's evening, whose coolness seemed to
re-animate the whole creation around,
attended by his wife, his daughter, then
about eighteen, his son much younger,

B

and

and a servant-maid: he bent his way along the banks of a neighbouring river; a fine moon added new charms to the surrounding objects. Unwilling to quit a scene so delightful, they protracted their innocent pleasure till a late hour; when returning home slowly, lest fatigue should do away the effect of wholesome recreation, they met with the most melancholy disaster which could befall them, and they for a long while deplored the fatal evening, which, after affording a few moments of domestic happiness, proved to them a source of trouble and dismay.

A young

A young cavalier, of the same town, about two-and-twenty years of age, authorized in his excesses by his birth, and the credit of a powerful and rich family, had for a long time indulged in all the enormities of licentiousness, and enabled by great wealth, rioted in the utmost extravagance : he was known throughout the whole city by the name of the impudent fellow. To conceal his true name, we shall call him Rodolpho. Attended by four others, as inconsiderate as himself, he was descending the same hill as our nobleman, the two companies met : Rodolpho and his companions stopping short a few mo-

B 2

ments,

ments, looked at the ladies with an air of unbecoming freedom, having previously taken care to cover their heads with their cloaks, in order to prevent being known. The nobleman could not help feeling a certain emotion upon observing their effrontery. Convinced, however, that true courage consists in despising insolence when one cannot punish it, he let them pass by without saying any thing. As soon as they were at a distance, he considered the danger to which one man alone, with three women and a child, was exposed abroad at so late an hour, he wished to have mended his pace ; but this, he thought, would

would increase the danger, and he was not mistaken. To acquaint his company with the cause of his fear, was, with women, to risk consequences which might, perhaps, be fatal. Besides, what assistance could he expect from them?—Therefore, without being disconcerted, or appearing afraid, he took his sword in his hand, as it were to play with, and proceeded the same pace as before, firmly determined not to be insulted a second time with impunity.

The beauty of Julia, for this was the young lady's name, had made so sudden and so lively an impression on Rodol-

pho's heart, that he had already resolved to obtain her favours, whatever might be the danger he was to encounter. Rodolpho, in imparting to his companions his determination, gave them to understand that they had not a moment to lose to satisfy him. They all approved of his design; for as he alone defrayed the expences of their pleasures, they were too much interested not to comply with his wishes. To form, therefore, the design of the outrage, to communicate it, to approve it, to ravish Julia, was the work but of a few minutes. Detestable riches, fatal discovery of a new world, which has loaded

us with gold only to authorize all crimes, and to transmit all our vices to those barbarous but happy people, without adorning ourselves even with the shadow of their virtues !

The four young men having covered their faces, proceeded along a by-way, returned softly with their swords in their hands, and fell on the company of the good nobleman, almost before he had had time enough to thank heaven for having delivered him from the mischief he was afraid of. But already had Rodolpho laid hands on Julia, who being more than half dead through fear, and

not perceiving that she was carried away, made no resistance. The father, engaged in fighting the three others, who wished only to prevent his following the ravisher, knew not which route he had taken. At length, abandoned to the utmost violence of despair, he wished but to perish, provided he could sacrifice one of his antagonists ; but these soon took to flight. Unable to follow them, he returned to his disconsolate family, whose cries had been unable to move the hearts of those obdurate villains. The mother, raising her eyes to heaven, and striking her breast, was calling for vengeance. The boy,
struck

struck with grief, stamped upon the ground, and screamed out. The maid, overpowered and silent by her mistress's side, was still laying on the ground, scarce able even to utter a sigh. The father, deprived of reason for a moment by the excess of grief, and drawing his sword, was preparing to plunge it into his breast; but his wife rushing upon him, and clasping him in her arms—"What excess of madness! (she exclaimed!) have I not lost enough? Would you deprive me of the dearest part of myself; and do you not feel an affection still for this child? Shall he in one instant lose a sister, a father, and a mother? Our
B 5 "misfortune

“ misfortune may have some resource.”

Again and again did she embrace him ; nor did she quit him till he had promised her he would survive the disaster.

His mind at length being somewhat more calm, he sat down for a little while, felt but too sensibly the wound he had received, and saw a frightful void around him. His eyes looked for Julia. —“ Julia, to what wretch’s mercy art thou now committed? Will he respect thy sex? will he even spare thy life? Thy heart will never be guilty, and thy simplicity is a pledge for the innocence of thy soul.”—At these words,

words, melting into tears, he fell on the neck of his wife. “ Yes, I am sensible
“ of the value of thy affection, dearest
“ part of myself; it is to thee I owe
“ my life; it is to thee that my daughter
“ will be indebted for her’s, if the
“ ravisher has not yet sacrificed it. But
“ what do I say? We are poor. Alas!
“ what resource has poverty against the
“ credit which the wretch, perhaps,
“ may find in order to avoid the punishment
“ due to wickedness! Shall
“ I say that the blood of my ancestors
“ smoked in these plains, to save the
“ liberty of our country? Shall I shew
“ the most authentic titles of nobility

“ as a proof of their bravery, and their
“ glorious exploits ? He, perhaps, is one
“ of those upstarts who are known but
“ through the whisper of discontent,
“ which have occasioned at the Court
“ the immense possessions of which
“ they have spoiled the state. What
“ protection is there for a nobleman
“ possessed only of his titles and virtues,
“ against these vile and base souls ?
“ Julia, art thou alive ? Dost thou pity
“ thy father ? No, I will not divulge my
“ misfortune ; I should be more cruel
“ than the ravisher himself : if he has
“ spared thy life, he will no doubt con-
“ ceal the injury he has done thee ; and

“ I am

“ I am too sensible of what I owe thee
“ and myself, to load thee with shame
“ for ever, by publishing this affront.
“ But live, and thou shalt ever be vir-
“ tuous in my eyes. Yet of whom
“ shall I complain?” Having thus
spoken, he rose up, took his wife and
son by the arm and returned home.

Rodolpho, in carrying off Julia, had
perceived the swoon into which, thro’
fear, she had fallen. He had covered
her face with his handkerchief, and in
this manner conveyed her to the place
of his abode. A garden-gate, of which
he

he had the key, favoured his criminal attempt : moreover, his apartment was standing by itself ; this was through the imprudence of his father, who shut his eyes against the enormous excesses which a blind love represented to him as the light extravagances of a turbulent and impetuous youth. Thus Julia had seen neither the way that her ravisher had taken, nor into what house she had entered, nor the apartment in which she had been sequestered. Rodolpho was scarcely in his chamber before he had completed his criminal design ; convinced that the birth and credit of his family

mily would silence the laws in his behalf, if Julia should ever speak of the atrocious injury he had done her.

He had no sooner gratified the impetuosity of his desires, than he perceived the enormity of his attempt. He now wished to drive her away from his sight, as much as he had before longed to have her in his possession. But by what means could he get rid of her? Were he to remove her into the street, he might possibly be perceived. Moreover, whatever might be the effect of violent terror on Julia whilst in his arms, recovered from it she might call out

out for assistance. Strange blindness of the guilty, who almost always imagine that one crime will be concealed by another! Rodolpho, at this moment, conceived the design of stabbing and burying her in his garden: he was alone, and, as has been said, his apartment had no communication with the main building but when he chose it, and it opened directly into the garden. He took a poniard, and approached the bed, where the light of the moon exhibited to him the wretched beauty with bewitching charms, which her dreadful situation had very little altered. The most blooming youth, the virtue of innocence

cence of which he was convinced, a remnant of compassion that his excesses had not yet extinguished : in a word, Julia, whose misfortunes seemed to solicit pity, affected him with the most lively emotion. He stopped, he gazed upon her, and felt the atrocity of his conduct towards her. Far from thinking of sacrificing her to his safety, he, trembling, returned to the bed, and was not even capable of executing the design of turning her out of his apartment. Oftentimes did he take her in his arms, and as often did he place her in the same former situation.

Julia,

Julia, at last recovering from the lethargy into which she had sunk, heaved a profound sigh. Rodolpho, to prevent her seeing the wretched situation she was in, immediately darkened the room, and sat down again, without speaking. “Where
“ am I ? (said she, with a feeble voice)
“ what darkness surrounds me ! Am I
“ still in the bosom of innocence, or in--”
At these words she shuddered ; she felt the blow she had received ; she melted into tears, and hardly could make herself to be understood for her sobs.—
“ Julia in a chamber, upon an un-
“ known bed !—Just heaven !—my
“ mother !—my father !—Alas ! can
“ you

“ you hear me ! No !—I perceive but
“ too well how far you are removed
“ from your unfortunate daughter !—
“ Ah ! may this obscurity deprive me
“ for ever of the light of day ; and this
“ place, whatever it may be, become
“ immediately my grave ! Oh ! that
“ I could bury my shame and infamy !
“ Thou cruel, of whom I yet am igno-
“ rant, has any spark of humanity pre-
“ vented thee from putting me to death,
“ after having stained my innocence ?
“ Didst thou, in the excess of thy bar-
“ barity, fear to be serviceable ? My
“ disgrace, whilst unknown, would have
“ been

“ been a shadow of virtue, which would
“ at least have covered the ruins of my
“ innocence ; and I should have been
“ irreproachable, since now virtue con-
“ sists only in opinion. Yes, I recol-
“ lect, and never shall I forget it, I was
“ but a little while ago, as I think, in
“ the company of my father and my
“ mother ; some madman seized upon
“ me. Cruel ! come and complete thy
“ crime : deliver me from a life which
“ I cannot drag on without shame.”

At these words, Rodolpho, approaching
the bed, applied his hand to the face of
Julia. She immediately laid hold of it,

and

and, bathing it with her tears, intreated him again and again to put an end to her existence.

Rodolpho, much agitated, answered not a word : he had no experience but in debauchery. Besides, what could he say ? his baseness and audacity bore witness against him : he remained silent. Julia, astonished, continued to hold fast his hand : she spoke to him again ; but still he answered not a word : she knew not whether this was the effect of an illusion, which her trouble and the excess of her grief had caused. She pulls the arm which she held, feels it, and touching

touching his body, exclaims,—“ Ah !
“ Whosoever thou mayest be; no, thou
“ art not a spectre : I discover, yes, I
“ find him who snatched me away
“ from before the eyes of my father
“ and my mother. Does the convic-
“ tion of thy crime hinder thee from
“ answering ? Young man ! fool ! yes,
“ I became thy prey : thy heart, per-
“ haps, rent as well as mine, in this
“ moment in which thou hast to suffer
“ the most violent regret, and I but to
“ shew thee ‘hat I know how to tri-
“ umph over misfortune : thy heart, I
“ say, tells thee that I was virtuous,
“ and virtue has always its power, in
“ spite

“ spite of thine and of thy fellows ef-
“ frontery. The rashness of thy con-
“ duct proves, that thou art not much
“ advanced in years ; therefore there is
“ no occasion to see thee. I forgive
“ thy offence, provided thou promisest
“ me that thou wilt never speak of it :
“ since thou hast committed it in dark-
“ ness, conceal it by an eternal silence.
“ Alas ! the favour I beg of thee is
“ small ; it is, however, the greatest
“ thou canst grant me, after thy outra-
“ geous behaviour. No, I have not
“ seen thy face ; I have no idea of
“ any of thy features ; nor do I
“ wish to see thee, though the re-
“ membrance

“membrance of the melancholy
“event shall for ever be engraved on
“my mind : I will at least be unac-
“quainted with him whose rashness
“has so grievously offended me. My
“complaints shall never be conveyed
“from my heart but to reach heaven,
“and none will be able to judge me
“after opinion. Remove then thy fear,
“and the dignity of my mind will equal
“thy conviction of thy outrageous con-
“duct. Reflections such as these from
“one of my age may perhaps astonish
“thee; but calamity, which oftentimes
“deprives us even of sensibility, some-
“times bestows on us, in one instant,
the

“ the experience which is not otherwise
“ to be acquired but through years.
“ Grief, I perceive it, ties and unties
“ the tongue of the unfortunate. If it
“ makes us exaggerate our disgraces, in
“ order to make us feel them, it also
“ silences us to prevent our seeking a
“ remedy for them, when it might
“ become dangerous ; therefore, whe-
“ ther I am silent, or speak to thee, I
“ believe thou feelest all of which it is
“ needless for me to convince thee. I
“ shall not, however, yield to despair :
“ thou canst at least do me a favour,
“ which will not cost thee much ; and
“ it is the only remedy I expect for

C

afflic-

“ afflictions such as mine : since thou
“ hast caused them, help me at least to
“ dissimulate them for some moments
“ to myself. Be aware, above all, not
“ to think that the too just indignation
“ with which thy behaviour inspired
“ me can ever be lessened ; it is an im-
“ pression of which I am no longer
“ mistress. In forgiving, I cannot but
“ hate thee, without, however, endea-
“ vouring to take revenge. Hope not
“ then to do me a second outrage :
“ avail thyself of the time when thy
“ senses, more quiet, enable thee to make
“ a wise reflection, and lead me hence.
“ I can find the house of my parents ;
“ but

“ but promise me that thou wilt not
“ follow me. Thou shalt know nei-
“ ther their name nor mine ; and it is
“ useless to ask me any question upon
“ that subject. Had they united to
“ their birth the fortune that thou per-
“ haps enjoyest, neither they nor I
“ should have suffered a violence so
“ cruel ; at least, thou wouldest not
“ have offered it with impunity. An-
“ swer me then, before thou departest:
“ be not afraid that I shall know thy
“ voice. I never in my life have spoken
“ but to my parents ; and I too seldom
“ mix in society, to hope that I might

“ one day distinguish thee in any
“ circle.”

Rodolpho did not answer : he grasped her hand, and kissed it with all the eagerness of an impassioned man. Julia, thinking he meditated another insult, endeavoured to disengage herself, with the utmost efforts, and the fury of offended modesty. She threw herself from the bed—“ Traitor ! base and
“ shameless man ! know that the success of thy first insult proceeded from
“ the violent terror with which thy
“ audacity struck me. Out of my
“ senses,

“ senses, and utterly passive in that lamentable moment, I could not resist thy unbecoming demeanour, and thy triumph adds to thy infamy; but now be assured, that thou canst dishonour me only by putting me to death. If I should gratify thy desires, thou mightest with reason suspect that my stupor, my weakness, had been a mere dissimulation; but in this moment, yes, I swear, with the anger of a woman justly exasperated, that I will abandon myself to my fury, if thou darest to touch me. My heart tells me that I am as innocent as I was some hours since;

“ therefore fear the wrath of a virtuous woman, and the violence of despair into which thou art about to throw me.”

Rodolpho removed without speaking, locked the door of his apartment, and went out to meet his friends, in order to consult them concerning the plan he ought to pursue with respect to the unfortunate Julia. Alone and in darkness, she observed by feeling, all the dimensions of the chamber: she found out the door, but there were no means of opening it: she made a few turns, and discovering the window-shutters,

“ at

at last succeeded in opening them. By the help of the clear moon-light, she saw a rich damask hanging, a bed, the covering of which was exceeding costly: the pillars, ornamented with gold, seemed to belong to a prince rather than to a nobleman: in a word, she saw the most magnificent furniture. Several closets, elegantly adorned, communicated to the bed-room; she opened them one after another, perceived pictures against the sides, without being able to distinguish the subjects. The window of the room was large, and opened into a magnificent garden, adorned with several statues; the walls,

however, inclosing it were very lofty ;
Julia, therefore, could not escape out of
the window, as she had wished. She
again sat down and abandoned herself
to her sorrow. “ Yes, (says she) every
“ thing here shews me that the traitor
“ is sufficiently rich, and, perhaps, still
“ more powerful. But are those riches,
“ those honours, but the support of
“ crimes, and the sure means of of-
“ fending virtue ? You whose hearts
“ are honest, if such there be, have
“ you ever imagined a situation so
“ dreadful as mine ? What will be-
“ come of me ? Just heaven ! am I not
“ allowed to renounce my life, in order
“ to

“ to avoid the horrors of my situation ?
“ Traitor ! what is become of him !
“ where has he brought me ? what
“ does he intend to do with me ? He
“ has not thought proper to risk him-
“ self alone, in order to insult me a se-
“ cond time. He is gone to fetch
“ the companions of his debauchery ;
“ and I shall behold a series of outrage,
“ infamy and disgrace. Just heaven !
“ art thou not any longer the support
“ of innocence ? After having aban-
“ doned me to the audacity of a
“ wretch, shouldst thou hold me guilty
“ were I to restore thee a stained soul,
“ which it has not pleased thee to pre-

“serve untouched?”——Julia was for some time motionless, with her eyes cast down; a shuddering agitated her: she perceived a crucifix hanging on one side of the chamber, which had hitherto escaped her sight; she ran to it, kissed it, and put it into her pocket, not with a design of depriving its lawful owner of it, but of having some proof of which she might make use if occasion should arise. She immediately shut the window, threw herself on the bed, expecting in the anguish of the most cruel perplexity, the end of this horrid catastrophe.

Half

Half an hour had elapsed, when Julia heard the door open: she leaped from the bed, and threw herself on a chair. Some one approaching her, covered her eyes with an handkerchief, saying, with a low voice, "Fear nothing; be silent, " and I will conduct you near to the " great church, as you desired me." Some one took her by the hand, and she distinctly heard the door shut. It was Rodolpho himself, who had gone out with the design of meeting his friends; but had altered his mind, being unwilling that there should be any witness of what had passed between himself and Julia. He intended to tell

them at another time, that moved by her entreaties and tears, he had left her under a tree, being resolved not to commit an outrage upon her ; that as for the rest, he was ignorant of what was become of her. He then led Julia near to the great church, not being willing to wait till day-light, which might have hindered him from getting rid of her before the following night. Besides, whether from the fear of the consequences, or from being moved by remorse, he firmly determined not to insult her again. As soon as they were near to the council-hall, he told her, with a low voice, half in Portuguese, half

half in Castilian, “ You may now re-
“ pair to your own house, without fear
“ of being followed.” Before she had
untied the bandage, Rodolpho had
stolen away. Julia, alone, looked about
on all sides—she saw no one ; but at
every step she cast back her eyes, to
know whether she was not followed.
For a short time she stood under some
portico, in order to conceal her route,
and hence went home. She knocked,
but her father and her mother, plunged
in the greatest grief, did not at first hear
her ; indeed, they scarcely hoped ever
to see her again. She knocked a se-
cond time, more violently : they ran to
the

the door. “It is Julia!” exclaimed her mother. Her father taking her in his arms, loaded her with careffes: they all looked at one another, without speaking. Julia made signs to them to attend her into a separate room: they shut themselves in, and the unfortunate girl fell at the knees of her mother.

“My mother, (said she) may I appear again before your eyes?—and
“am I still your daughter?—Stained,
“injured by a wretch, who has left me
“nothing but the regret of belonging
“to you, shall I relate to you the consequences of the terror and consternation
“nation

“ nation into which he threw me ?

“ No, heaven is witness, I have not

“ sacrificed my innocence to avoid

“ death : I would have given a thou-

“ sand lives to preserve it. Without

“ strength, out of my senses, I became

“ the prey of the ravisher, and——”

At these words Julia fainted : her father

raised her up. After some moments,

being recovered, she related to them

all she had observed concerning the

chamber in which she had been shut

up. “ I could recognize the garden, the

“ window, the grate, the chamber and

“ damask hanging, the bed, the closets.

“ I have seen pictures, but I have not

“ been

“ been able to discern their subjects.

“ Besides this, behold, there is a cru-

“ cifix, which will serve in time of

“ need.” They all melted into tears

before this crucifix. The father and

mother, in this moment of distress,

swore they would revenge the affront—

begged of heaven to assist their just an-

ger, and that the guilty one should be

punished in a manner the most terrible.

“ Though I am not desirous (said

“ Julia, melting into tears) of know-

“ ing him who has committed this

“ outrage upon me ; yet, my father,

“ you may be able to discover some-

“ thing by the help of this crucifix.

“ Desire

“ Desire the clerks of the chapel to
“ enquire in the church who has lost
“ it. Mention, at the same time,
“ such a monk, as you shall name,
“ with whom it may lay for the pur-
“ pose of its being owned. If the owner
“ happen thus to be known, it will
“ thus also be known where is his
“ residence.”

“ True, Julia, but the cunning of a
“ villain will not fall into this snare :
“ he will no doubt soon perceive that
“ the crucifix is wanting in his room ;
“ and he cannot doubt, but that the
“ person whom he had shut up had
“ taken

“ taken it : thus to say that one may
“ find it at such a monk’s, is to disco-
“ ver the person who has taken it, ra-
“ ther than him to whom it belongs.
“ Cannot this man give to another all
“ the signs which would prove the
“ cross as belonging to him ; and can
“ the monk refuse it ? I will even
“ suppose that we make it pass by
“ means of a third person into the
“ hands of the monk : is not this
“ enough to divulge our dishonour ?
“ for a cross of such value is not to be
“ found and restored without explana-
“ tion. The best way then is to keep
“ it, my daughter, and to recommend
“ ourselves

“ ourselves to him whom it represents.
“ Since he witnessed our misfortune,
“ he will doubtless permit that we
“ may, sooner or later, obtain justice.
“ Observe, that the mere suspicion of a
“ known dishonour is more to be fear-
“ ed than an unknown disgrace. You
“ can live respected, honoured in the
“ eyes of the world ; be not then un-
“ easy about an affront which is known
“ only to us. Shame arises only from
“ a voluntary fault ; and it is in honour
“ that virtue consists. Since neither
“ your desire nor your will had any
“ share in your misfortune, you are
“ equally innocent before heaven and
“ earth ;

“ earth ; and I shall still look upon
“ you with the eyes of a true father.”

Thus did the afflicted parents comfort their unhappy daughter. Her mother, taking Julia in her arms, bathed her with tears, without being able to speak. After many sighs, their bitter sorrow began to calm ; and they resolved to be silent with respect to this fatal event, whatever might be their pain in dissembling. Julia, more affected with disgrace than with the consequences of the outrage, had not yet considered the situation in which she was about to be placed, and her mother had been prudent enough not to make her suspect
any

any thing concerning it, for the fear of throwing her into despair. Meanwhile, Julia became pregnant of a child, who was one day to prove her innocence, bring peace to her mind, and be her most grateful comfort.

Rodolpho, content with being rid of his prisoner, who had sworn to him the most inviolable secrecy, soon perceived that the golden cross was missing, and easily presuming how it had been taken, kept a profound silence. The loss of it was of very little importance to one so rich : nevertheless, the theft made him so uneasy, that he immediately took
the

the resolution of setting out for Italy. The war, that was there supported by Spain against France, in the Milanese, and in the kingdom of Naples, had attracted to that country several of his young friends, whom he hoped to meet there. Sure of the consent of his family, he resolved to depart in three days. His father had seen Italy, and being satisfied with the design of his son, engaged him not to delay, and observed, how useful it was for young men of family to travel.—“ No, my son, it is to be
“ but half a man not to signalize one’s
“ self in foreign countries. Spain has
“ already gathered too many laurels in
“ Italy,

“ Italy, for me to fear your returning
“ without partaking of those which
“ she has a right to pretend to, after
“ so many victories. To-morrow I
“ shall give you letters of credit for
“ Barcelona, Genoa, Rome, and Na-
“ ples; and I hope that in your conduct
“ you will not be forgetful who and
“ what you are.” After two days,
Rodolpho departed with his friends,
who had much applauded his resolu-
tion, and had related to him what se-
veral military men had told them con-
cerning the abundance of that country,
the accommodations of the inns, and
the liberty which the Spaniards enjoy-
ed

ed there; whereas it was with difficulty that water could be found to drink in the inns of Spain: in a word, Rodolpho thought no more of the sorrowful Julia, than if nothing had happened to her.

Julia, notwithstanding the protestations of her father, and the extreme affection of her mother, could hardly persuade herself they had no suspicion that her resistance to the entreaties of Rodolpho was more feeble than it ought to have been: a swoon of such long duration, she thought, might to them appear incredible. “ Yes, I in vain assert my innocence; I am guilty in
their

“ their eyes, and they never will be
“ convinced that it was the effect of
“ violent terror. How then shall I
“ dare to look them in the face? Ah!
“ would it not have been better to dis-
“ semble, and assure them that in spite
“ of the violence with which he assail-
“ ed me, I had triumphed over his au-
“ dacity. I should at least be innocent
“ in their eyes, as I am in my own con-
“ science. But is there not some con-
“ sequence to be feared? and if I am—
“ I have then done well. Whatever
“ may happen to me, I have no danger
“ to run by living in solitude: they

D

“ know

“ know every particular, therefore I
“ submit to my painful fate.”

Julia remained so strictly reclusive, that she saw not even the friends of her family : they were told that she was gone into the country to an aunt's, from whom she expected to inherit a large estate, and that she, perhaps, would stay there the whole year. Her friends asked no farther questions. Six weeks had elapsed when Julia perceived that her fear was but too well grounded. Certain emotions which she had felt during her swoon, and which she imperfectly

perfectly remembered on her recovery, incessantly reminded her that the soul, though it is passive in these moments, yields too much to the impressions of the frame ; and hence concluded, that, without being guilty, she might become a mother. Julia, notwithstanding her former resolution, soon rebelled against it, melted into tears, and abandoned herself to the sorrow of a woman outrageously and indignantly treated. She would neither drink nor eat, and dared not to look at her father and mother : she scarce spoke a word to them, and when she did, it was to accuse them of criminal tenderness. She especially re-

proached her father for not having imitated that brave Roman, who chose to immolate his own daughter, rather than let her be dishonoured by a man as base as him by whom she herself had been dishonoured.

“ Yes, after you had given me life,
“ you ought to have preserved my honour, or perished with me. Search
“ out the ravisher, let him restore me
“ what I cannot possess but from him
“ alone. Silence is unworthy of you,
“ or you never was my father. Let the
“ idea of virtue consist in opinion, am
“ I not disgraced? and are not you
“ also?

“ also? You are a nobleman, and I
“ ought to be revenged. Justice should
“ not take cognizance of this affair un-
“ til I shall have been revenged.”

Her father, much affected at this observation, took her in his arms, mingled his tears with her's, consoled her by making every promise, which was exacted by so well-grounded grief. He retired to meet his wife, to whom he related the discourse of his daughter. Leonora, as afflicted as her husband, yet disapproved of violent measures, in supposing they might find out the author of their dreadful disgrace. She thought

it more proper to make use of artifice, and to soften the grief of her daughter, by fictitious letters, till a fortunate chance should procure them some tidings, however imperfect they might be. In the evening she visited the chamber of Julia ; but in vain did she attempt to comfort her : they parted, both overwhelmed with grief.

This night was not for Julia more peaceful than the preceding. Darknefs, indeed, almost always proved to her an additional pain : for scarce was it dark, when she recollected the sad moment of her dishonour, and the chamber of
the

the rash unknown was horribly represented, with all its horrors, to her disturbed imagination. Leonora slept no better : she agreed with her husband to tell Julia, within three or four days, that they had at last some hopes of discovering the offender. Till that time they did not leave her ; the one or the other was always in her room, endeavouring to divert her attention : they even dissembled their own feelings, in order to make her chearful.

Four days after, her father, upon his return from the town, entering the apartment of Julia with an air of satis-

faction that he had not had since the night of her dreadful catastrophe, embraced her, and said, “ My daughter, “ we are not to despair ; heaven has “ had mercy upon us, and we shall “ know something within the space of “ eight days. I was yesterday evening “ on the bank of the river, where I met “ Don Gutiere, who, before I had perceived him, took me by the hand : as “ he frequents good company, and is “ always well acquainted with the “ news, we first spoke of the success of “ our armies in the kingdom of Naples, “ and afterwards of the news of the “ town, concerning the trifling events
of

“ of the day. Apropos, (said he to me)
“ I passed such a day in your neigh-
“ bourhood : it was late, and I could
“ not wish you good-night ; but I saw
“ a woman who was repairing to your
“ house, somewhat hastily : she had
“ just left a young man nigh to the
“ town-house, and, walking along the
“ same street as myself, I thought she
“ would have broken your door open.
“ It was a cousin of our maid, I told
“ him, who had been at Toledo a short
“ time since. The country people are
“ as little fearful in the night-time as
“ in the day, for this reason I had sent
“ her out ; but I conceived that she

D 5

had

“ had returned before we went to bed.
“ The person to whom I had sent her
“ was, perhaps, kind enough to give her
“ a companion as far as that place.
“ But, (said I) which way did the
“ young man go? Of that I did not
“ take notice (answered he). I be-
“ lieve, however, that I have seen him
“ somewhere: his face is not unknown
“ to me: a beautiful moon enabled me
“ to distinguish him: he was well-
“ dressed, and the girl seemed to squeeze
“ his hand when they parted.”

The father was going to say, he cer-
tainly mistook; but he had hardly let
flip

flip these last words, when Julia looked at him with eyes full of anger. “ No, “ my father, I shall never convince you “ of my innocence. The painful situa- “ tion in which I find myself, and a “ witness who seems to be a proof of “ my tacit consent, require that I re- “ venge myself. Yes, I shall go and “ divulge my shame and yours. I can- “ not justify myself but by completing “ my infamy. I shall suffer, then, the “ miseries of a dreadful storm, since it “ is only after it that I can hope for “ calm. Inclose me within four walls, “ lest I immediately make my escape ; “ and the desire of justifying myself

D 6

“ will

“ will appease the revolt of my senses.”

Her father perceived too late how imprudent he had been in letting these last words fall from him. He in vain assured her that he did not believe it. Julia could not look at him without blushing; and had it not been for Leonora, who had more power over her, she was about to abandon herself to the most violent passion. She became calm, by the hope that her mother gave her, in loading her with caresses. “ No, my daughter, we shall not be ignorant of him who has offended us: we shall discover him, without exposing our reputation. I, myself, shall

“ shall now undertake the affair ; and
“ that must be absolutely impenetrable
“ of which a woman cannot gain in-
“ telligence, when she wishes it. What
“ Don Gutiere has just told your fa-
“ ther is sufficient. I shall discover
“ the traitor, were he at the end of the
“ world.”

Julia, after these promises, became a little easy concerning her situation, to which there was no other remedy than the time fixed by nature. Three months had already elapsed, and Leonora had heard nothing certain : she, however, was in hope of a letter, through which
she

she might know more. The young man, added she, is now known, at least, by sight ; and some suspect who he is, by the company in which, they say, they have sometimes seen him ; but the risk of being mistaken renders it necessary to keep silence. Fifteen days more had passed, when the father shewed a fictitious letter. “ My dear friend,
“ I have neglected nothing to discover
“ the person of whom you have spoken
“ to me. After many enquiries, from
“ the description you have given me of
“ him, I am sure he is a young man of
“ Orgaz, who has already played many
“ tricks. Having rambled, like a true
“ gipsy,

“ gipsey, through Lonteca, Confuegra,
“ and Cobisa, he had last year retired to
“ Toledo, where he associated himself
“ with a gang of pickpockets, who
“ were apprehended six months ago.
“ Some suspect that he has passed
“ through Rodilas, where part of the
“ banditti at first withdrew. I do not
“ know what concern you have for
“ this person; but it is certain, that
“ no one can speak of him but to de-
“ nounce him to justice; and I have
“ no doubt but that he will soon be
“ hanged.”

The

The father had scarce done reading, when Leonora feigned to shudder. She fell on the neck of Julia, and, embracing her, said, “ Well, my dear, what resolution do you wish me to take? Must I pursue my enquiries? Do you wish that every one may know that it is you whom the villain has dishonoured? You see that he is known to be so, and there is no need of our complaint, in order that he should be punished, as he certainly will be sooner or later. Let us thank heaven for his not having put you to death; and do, then, take care of yourself, for the sake of the child,

“ who

“ who had no share in the enormities
“ of his father. No one is acquainted
“ with your misfortune : let us both
“ be prudent, since the least step farther
“ may dishonour us for ever.”

Julia conceived that she ought to submit : how severely soever her heart was wounded, she spent the remainder of her term in silence. Leonora was herself the midwife, and Julia was, without any other witness, delivered of a fine handsome boy. They sent him secretly into the country, where he remained four years. Leonora then yielding to the desire of Julia, who wished to see
her

her child again, however sorrowful might be the remembrance he might cause to her. If the house was not costly, it at least could be deemed the asylum of virtue, and the child was brought up there in such a manner, as not to imitate the excesses of his father. They called him Lewis, after the name of Julia's father. The most interesting figure, a fine countenance, great vivacity, the most pleasant fallies, a submissive temper, blended with a certain degree of pride, were the advantages which made amends to the child for what he wanted on the score of birth; and Lewis, in his behaviour, seemed to announce

nounce that he was not the son of a man of low rank. He knew so well how to gain the affection of the parents of Julia, that they often thanked heaven for having given them a grandson so interesting, though through so dreadful an accident. Time, which alone softens all sorrows, had, however, left in the heart of Julia the most lively impression of her misfortune; and this impression had rendered more lively that natural affection which ties a mother to her child; Julia, therefore, loved very tenderly her son, whom she called her little cousin.

Lewis

Lewis never went out to deliver a message, or to attend upon his masters, without being embraced by those who were acquainted with the family of his grandfather: those even who knew not the boy, were pleased to caress him. Some admired his pretty figure, others congratulated his mother. His father had also a share in the eulogium and compliments; and the grandfather, who was bringing him up, was not forgotten. At length, Lewis, generally beloved, arrived at the age of seven years: he already knew the first rudiments of learning, and could write tolerably well. His grandfather, who could not leave him a
large

large fortune, was at least willing to leave him talents, a property over which neither fortune, nor injustice of men have any power.

Julia could not sufficiently congratulate herself upon being a mother; and from time to time she said with sorrow,
“ When shall I know thy father, my
“ dear child? Is it possible that, with
“ so good dispositions, thou canst be the
“ son of a wretch whom I should never
“ dare to claim? And shall I always
“ blush in thinking of thy father? No,
“ certainly; my mother was not well
“ informed. A flattering presentiment,
“ which

“ which I am not able to define, still
“ supports my hope, and I dare expect
“ one day to call thee my son, with as
“ much pleasure as at present I have
“ fear. Through thy features, thy
“ countenance, may I not recognize
“ some one in this town who might in-
“ spire me with sweet, though painful
“ sensations of a transient illusion.
“ Thou hast too much power over my
“ heart, that I should hesitate to par-
“ don him to whom thou owest thy
“ existence. Shall I never hear a word
“ concerning that event? May the
“ cruel one betray himself! and were
“ he of the lowest rank, if he was ho-
“ nest

“ and free, I would carry thee to his
“ arms, there to live and die with thee.
“ I have merited his friendship, by so
“ many tears, so many sighs, and so
“ much grief! Would he refuse me
“ his hand? or would he renounce the
“ sentiments of nature——Dear child!
“ No; thy heart tells me that thy father
“ is not a tyger, and that he would pity
“ me as much as I feel tenderness for
“ him, since he is thy father!” Julia
immediately concealed herself from the
child, in order to weep alone; then re-
turning to embrace him, she for a time
forgot her grief.

Leonora,

Leonora, wishing to hear of a kinsman who was ill, sent a card of enquiry by Lewis, who, always ready to obey, set out with the intention of immediately returning. It was necessary for him to pass by a place where there happened to be a horse-race. Unfortunately he stopped there, like others, to look on. Being too short to see from behind, he found means of advancing to the edge of the course, at the risk of being injured by some of the horses; an accident which not long after actually befel him. He saw a cavalier, who seemed to rush like lightning towards him; being frightened, he wished to pass to the
other

other side, but it was too late: the horse passing on, gains with too much velocity to be suddenly stopped, ran over him, and he was left for dead upon the spot. A loud cry being raised, people hastened to the boy. A nobleman, already in years, had arrived before the crowd: he alighted, took the child in his arms, and, without considering his rank and dignity, carried him to his house. They ran to the surgeon, and several people who, affected with the misfortune of the boy, already well known, had followed the nobleman, told him that it was the little Lewis. This man of sensibility recollected with

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grief

grief the house of his grandfather, who passed for his uncle, and ordered that the greatest care possible should be taken of him.

The rumour of the accident being immediately spread abroad, reached the house of the uncle, who ran, with his wife and daughter, more dead than alive, having no strength but through that incomprehensible feeling, which gives to the most fearful mother the courage of a lion in danger. Being shewn the house of the nobleman, Julia, distracted, entered, without saying a word, took Lewis in her arms, embraced

braced him, and, fainting, fell on the bed. They placed her on a chair, and some moments after being recovered, she, without design, cried out several times, "My son, my dear child!" They, however, looked upon these exclamations as the expression of friendship. Besides, they were too much engrossed by the misfortune of the child, to think of finding in these complaints any other meaning than that which is oftentimes given to these words, merely through tenderness. Leonora and her husband mingled their tears with those of Julia, but were moderate in their complaints: they asked the surgeon whether he de-

spaired of the life of their young nephew. “No, (said he) there is not so much danger as I at first thought.”

The lady of the house then beginning to speak, said to Leonora, “Madam, “you have a daughter whose heart is “very sensible. Were she the mother “of the child, she would not shew “more tenderness.” “Madam, (replied Leonora) do not wonder at “such an excess of friendship: this boy, “who has lived with us these three “years, is become the object of all the “care and amusements of Julia. As “she has been always recluse as a nun, “though from her own choice, we
thought

“ thought proper to give her this child
“ to keep her company, and divert her
“ by his playful innocence: hence arose
“ her singular affection, and the situa-
“ tion in which you have just seen her.
“ Another reason which induced us to
“ keep him at home, is, that his father
“ seems very unconcerned for his fate;
“ but the child has found in Julia a
“ true mother, and he already begins
“ to be sensible of the value of her
“ friendship.”

At these words, Julia, less depressed,
raised her eyes, looked at her mother,
and asked the lady of the house her

pardon for having entered it so uncivilly. “ Never mind, (answered the
“ lady) after what I have just heard, I
“ conceive with how much grief your
“ heart must have been oppressed,
“ when you were informed of the boy’s
“ accident ; but be easy, the evil is not
“ without remedy, for so we are assured
“ by the surgeon, who is one of the
“ most skilful in Spain.” “ No, (re-
“ peated the surgeon) there is no real
“ danger ; I will be responsible for the
“ child,” and soon afterwards he withdrew, recommending them to keep him quiet.

Julia’s

Julia's father accompanied him down stairs, saying, that particular business demanded him elsewhere ; but it was to hear from the surgeon whether the boy was not mortally wounded. " He " is become so dear to me, from the " tenderness that my daughter has " conceived for him, that I could not " lose him without losing her : no, she " could not survive him." After he was satisfied by the surgeon upon this head, he returned home.

Meanwhile Lewis awaking, opened his eyes. Julia ran to his bed, and asked him how he felt himself. " To-

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" lerably

“ lerbably well, my cousin, (he replied)
“ except that I have a bad head-ach;
“ it will perhaps soon be better. But
“ where am I? for I do not know this
“ place.” “ Thou art well, thou art
“ well, my dear, do not speak.” She
then seated herself again. Julia, till
that time, too depressed by her grief to
consider the room in which she was,
had thought only of her son’s accident;
but his question awoke her attention.
She rapidly cast her eyes round the
apartment, and felt her blood rise in
her face. Stephania perceiving it, ask-
ed her if she was indisposed? “ No,
“ Madam; overcome with your kind-
“ nefs,

“ nefs, I was thinking that it was al-
“ most time to return home ; but de-
“ tained here by this child, I am
“ quite uneasy when I think of part-
“ ing.” “ Do not fear disturbing us
“ (said the master of the house) : in
“ proportion to my fear for the misfor-
“ tune of the child, is the tenderness I
“ felt for him, when I held him in my
“ arms : it seemed to me that I saw in
“ his countenance a son who is dear to
“ me; and no copy was ever more like
“ the original. Indeed, if it was be-
“ coming to joke on such an occasion,
“ I should say that he is his father:
“ No, you do not trouble us : and I

“ beg of you, as a favour, to leave him
“ till he is quite recovered. You may
“ depend upon my care, and that of
“ my surgeon: he shall be attended
“ day and night: make my house yours,
“ and permit me at present to with-
“ draw upon some business.”

Leonora and Julia, less uneasy, remained with Stephania, who overcame them with kindness, and even offered a bed to Julia, if she wished to stay with the sick. Julia distrusted her own heart, after what she had just seen in the apartment, and thought proper to defer it a little longer. She thanked
the

the lady with as much gratitude as her services and offers merited. “ How
“ amiable you are, (replied Stephania)
“ your refusals themselves make you to
“ be loved; and you break my heart by
“ the sad remembrance of my daughter,
“ when I look at you. She had your
“ air, your countenance, your graces,
“ your sweetness; but I have lost her,
“ with circumstances too dismal to re-
“ late to you. Forgive this rambling,
“ for the sake of the tenderness of a
“ mother, who would deem herself
“ happy in being yours.” “ Madam,
“ (said Leonora) though these sad re-
“ membrances are always attended

“ with sorrow, I know, by experience,
“ that the mind dwells upon them
“ with secret satisfaction. I perceive
“ that your heart needs but to disclose
“ itself; give me leave, then, to make
“ your friendship a claim to merit your
“ confidence. I have lost several chil-
“ dren, and I feel my sorrow less when
“ I can speak of it to my friends;
“ therefore let us hear of your dear
“ daughter, with whom you compare
“ my Julia.” Stephania kept silent for
some minutes; but suddenly starting,
as from a dream, she took the hand of
Leonora—“ Yes, you deserve my con-
“ fidence, and Julia shall hear the his-
“ tory.

“ tory. Notwithstanding the prudence
“ which she seems to be possessed of,
“ she will but know better how to dis-
“ trust the cunning and wickedness of
“ young men.

“ Marina was about sixteen when
“ she was asked in marriage, by a
“ youth of her own rank. However
“ suitable the match might be, my
“ daughter seemed as yet too young,
“ or, at least, too little experienced, and
“ we declined the offer, alledging this
“ as the only reason, but without pro-
“ mising any thing with reference to
“ the future. The young man, of-
“ fended

“ fended at our refusal, took every
“ means in his power to gain the heart
“ of Marina. The Duenna, who at-
“ tended her, was the person whom he
“ made choice of to manage his pro-
“ ject. A woman, at first unknown to
“ us, and whom he had engaged in his
“ interest, gained our Duenna, who
“ easily persuaded Marina that it was
“ time to think of marrying. Her
“ heart, though yet untried, was so
“ combustible at this very moment,
“ that it wanted but the slightest spark
“ to kindle it ; and this it soon receiv-
“ ed. She was first shewn the por-
“ trait of him who courted her : it
“ pleased

“ pleased her, and, indeed, no wonder,
“ for the youth had, in the most attrac-
“ tive countenance, every thing which
“ seemed capable of pleasing. They
“ contrived three interviews at church,
“ in our absence, and these, in that
“ moment, formed a chain which it
“ was not possible to break. Marina
“ soon fell into a kind of melancholy :
“ she became thoughtful and silent.
“ Scarce was I able to draw from her
“ one word, although she was natu-
“ rally of a lively disposition. It was
“ in vain I asked her the cause of such
“ a singular change: I extorted but
“ sighs ; or she used some subterfuge,
“ in

“ in which she had been carefully in-
“ structed. I took every measure in
“ my power to prevent deception ; but
“ the artful Duenna, who seemed eager
“ to help my views, betrayed me on
“ every occasion ; and the intrigue
“ lasted for three years. Before the
“ catastrophe happened which termi-
“ nated it, her hand had been twice
“ solicited by other persons. She had
“ refused positively, saying, that she
“ could not for a long time think of
“ marriage, against which she had a
“ particular reluctance. Marina’s situa-
“ tion became worse every day. She,
“ however, saw her lover, who was
intro-

“ introduced into the Duenna’s cham-
“ ber, where Marina slept : in short,
“ should I tell you, my daughter yield-
“ ed to his embraces, and their intrigue
“ lasted almost six months after. Ma-
“ rina was then in a situation which
“ she could not conceal any longer :
“ she called for a physician, owned
“ what had happened, and desired him
“ to let me alone be acquainted with
“ it, that I might endeavour to save
“ her reputation. I instantly went to
“ the father of the young man, who ap-
“ pointed the following day for a meet-
“ ing, promising he would bring his
“ son with him. I repaired to the
“ appointed

“ appointed place, the father was wait-
“ ing for me with his son, to whom
“ he had not yet opened his intentions,
“ for fear of his absenting himself. I
“ addressed the son directly, telling
“ him all that Marina had disclosed to
“ me, and reminding him how strong-
“ ly he had engaged himself to my
“ daughter, by reducing her to her sad
“ situation ; that beside paternal au-
“ thority, there were laws to which I
“ had a right to appeal, if he could
“ forget his duty ; but I did not deem
“ him so base as to dishonour himself.
“ He remained dumb for some time.
“ His father ordered him to satisfy
“ me,

“ me by a most strict and sincere pro-
“ mise, unless he was resolved, in pre-
“ ference, to be shut up for the rest of
“ his life. For though equal in rank to
“ my husband, the father was not
“ ignorant that our family, one of
“ the most illustrious in Spain, would
“ not be disgraced with impunity. He
“ was, besides, too much interested to
“ allow of this affront from his son
“ without redress: he himself would
“ have been obliged to leave the court,
“ and the doors of the best families
“ would have been shut against him.
“ But he was a man of probity, as well
“ as my husband; and they were both
“ incapable

“incapable of bearing with a base ac-
“tion. The son promised to perform
“all his father ordered him : he even
“took me by the hand, swearing that
“he would never have another wife
“than Marina. Perfectly satisfied, I
“returned to meet my daughter, and
“apprised her of what had passed. Her
“situation wanted comfort rather than
“reproaches from me ; therefore I
“shewed her all the tenderness which
“my heart felt for a daughter, whom
“I affectionately loved.” At these
words Stephania let fall the tears from
which she had hitherto with difficulty
refrained.

“Hear

“ Hear the end of an affair so melancholy to the heart of a mother.
“ I was prudent enough to conceal all
“ from my husband, and I desired the
“ father of the youth to keep the most
“ profound silence. I affected to shew
“ a particular friendship to the Duenna,
“ who had betrayed me, delaying to revenge myself on her for her perfidy till
“ the affair should be completed ; but,
“ in spite of my prudence, all blazed
“ forth. The day after, the young man
“ repaired to his father’s garden, and
“ there pierced himself through with
“ his own sword, and left at his side
“ this writing: *No, I will not marry*
“ *her*

“ *her whom I could not esteem.* Being
“ accustomed to come down early, and
“ to wish his father good morning, the
“ latter much surpris'd not to see him,
“ sent a servant to his apartment, but
“ he was not there. They enquired
“ in the house whether he had been
“ seen, and were answered that he had
“ not shewn himself. The father him-
“ self went into the garden, desiring
“ to be left alone. Entering an ar-
“ bour, he perceived some one laying
“ at the other extremity : it was his
“ son, whom he saw weltering in his
“ blood. He fell at his side, out of
“ his senses ; nor did he recover for a
“ long

“ long time: then, with scarce strength
“ sufficient, he went to call for some
“ one in whom he had confidence, and
“ returned with him to consult what
“ should be done. They agreed to
“ come at another time, without dis-
“ closing any thing, to keep the gar-
“ den door locked all day, and not to
“ carry him away before night. When
“ the family had gone to rest, the fa-
“ ther, with two servants, brought him
“ to his bed, and the following day they
“ spread a report that he had fought
“ the preceding night, and was dead
“ of his wounds. Thus died the young
“ Gorcia. As soon as his father had
“ acquainted

“ acquainted me with his death, I was
“ obliged to use artifice to make my
“ daughter believe that the affair could
“ not be brought about so soon as she
“ had thought. For fear of Marina’s
“ situation being perceived, I desired
“ her father to let us go and spend
“ some time at a country-seat on the
“ bank of the Tagus, two leagues be-
“ low Toledo. The physician re-
“ paired thither at the time I had ap-
“ pointed. Marina could no longer
“ conceal her situation but in retreat :
“ she, as well as myself, was apprehen-
“ sive of the presence of her father,
“ notwithstanding his business which
“ detained

“ detained him in town, and I should
“ have been undone had he arrived un-
“ expectedly. I should never have
“ been able to have persuaded him that
“ I had not favoured the intrigue of
“ his daughter. I reproached myself a
“ thousand times for not having in-
“ formed him seasonably of what had
“ passed ; but maternal tenderness, the
“ inexorable character of men, who,
“ though subject to our foibles, are
“ unwilling to pardon them in us.-
“ Lastly, my daughter’s reputation,
“ which I wished to save, induced me
“ to dissimble. Maternal pity, art
“ thou then a crime in the heart of a

F.

“ tender

“ tender mother? and must she cease
“ to love her daughter, because the
“ victim of her impetuous senses? No,
“ my daughter, I would never have
“ ceased to love thee. Should I be-
“ reave thee of a comfort which thou
“ couldst not find but in thy mother?
“ Marina being incapable of bearing
“ the delay, for which I always gave
“ some plausible reasons, told me, at
“ last, she perceived her misfortune was
“ without resource, and that from this
“ very moment she would yield to her
“ grief, in order to quit a life which was
“ now become odious to her. What
“ ought I to have done in this melan-
“ choly

“ choly alternative ? To tell her what
“ had passed at Don Gorcia’s, this was
“ to hazard still worse. It was not
“ long before the physician returned,
“ and we agreed that he should inform
“ Marina of the young Gorcia’s death,
“ without apprizing her of the circum-
“ stances. The doctor used all the ad-
“ drefs of a man of prudence, and en-
“ deavoured to make her believe that
“ the father of Gorcia had permitted
“ her to go and spend the remainder of
“ the time at his country-seat, in Estr-
“ madura; and it would be the less dif-
“ ficult to obtain the consent of her
“ father, inasmuch as he would accom-

“ pany her home to solicit it. Marina, too
“ much affected with her situation, did
“ not yield to these reasons : she mis-
“ carried this very night, and, in conse-
“ quence, she died next day. Such
“ was, my dear Leonora, the tragical
“ end of a daughter, for whose sake I
“ would have shed the last drop of my
“ blood. I should have kept the most
“ profound silence concerning this
“ event, if, in spite of our prudence,
“ it had not been made known ; but
“ the death of my daughter has shel-
“ tered her from all reproach. She was
“ pitied, and every one who was ac-
“ quainted with it sympathized with
“ me

“ me in my grief. Heaven, however,
“ has left me some consolation for so
“ dreadful a loss. I have a son, who
“ is, at least, the sweet hope of my old
“ age, and of the whole family: he
“ formerly was a little inconsiderate;
“ but now since he has been serving in
“ the army, and obliged to obey, he has
“ undergone a great change: he is a
“ reasonable man, or at least we are in-
“ formed he is so. I long to see him
“ again; but his father will not hear
“ of his return.”

Stephania had no sooner uttered these
last words, than Lewis raised his head

to look at the company. Julia ran to his bed: Stephania approached and embraced him. Struck with the likeness that she perceived, she could not help exclaiming, "Yes, my dear, no child
" ever resembled his father more than
" you resemble——" Then turning towards Julia, "Who then is the
" father of this boy? How well did
" my husband contrive it! Why is
" not my son here? I am sure he would
" be as astonished as I am. Let us sit
" down again, and speak low, for fear
" of troubling the repose of this amiable child." Lewis fell asleep.

Stephania

Stephania taking the two hands of Julia, pressed them, and begged she would let her know the father of Lewis, and the place of his nativity; but Julia, greatly dejected, wept, and remained dumb. Leonora, then beginning to speak, said, “ Madam, the grief of my
“ daughter prevents her answering.
“ Excuse the grief which the misfortune of the child has brought on her.
“ The great care which you take of
“ him requires from us too much gratitude to refuse to satisfy your curiosity. This boy was brought into the
“ world by one of my relations ; as for

“ the father, I cannot name him : I do
“ not know myself who he is : his vir-
“ tuous mother was accompanied by
“ her parents when she was carried
“ away by a gang of libertines, who
“ conducted her I know not where.
“ Out of her senses, she then became the
“ prey of one of them, and the mother
“ of this amiable child. All our en-
“ quiries have not enabled us to disco-
“ ver any proof by which we could be
“ empowered to lay a complaint. The
“ mother since that time has lived in
“ solitude, according to the advice of
“ her family, and we have brought up
“ her

“ her infant. This is all I can tell you,
“ with the sincerity you have deserved
“ from us.”

“ Madam, (replied Stephania) I was
“ not mistaken : for, besides that he is
“ like my son, I really thought I saw
“ in him features like yours, and those
“ of Julia. He bears a certain family
“ air, which it is not difficult to dis-
“ cern. His mother, no doubt, is near-
“ ly related to you ?” “ Yes, Madam,
“ but I think you will be good enough
“ not to require that I should tell you
“ her name.”

During this conversation, Julia, whose sorrow had been awakened by their recital, was still more astonished at finding herself again in the apartment in which she had been made a mother : though it was not decked with the same hangings as formerly, Julia knew very well that she could not be mistaken : the partition of the closets, the grated windows, which opened into the garden, where she had just perceived the two statues, which she noticed on the day of her misfortune, more especially the closet where she saw the nail from whence hung the crucifix which she had taken. Lastly, the gilded bed, which

which she could not possibly mistake ; every thing reminded her of that fatal night, and of the place which had been the tomb of her innocence. Leonora, probably, would not have delayed any longer the disclosure of the whole affair, had her eyes been as well instructed as those of Julia ; but she was ignorant of all that her daughter had recognized. Julia, far from acknowledging that she was the boy's mother, dissimulated the grief which oppressed her heart, and talked of returning home, not thinking proper to wait any later for her father. She, therefore, was recommending the child to the care of Stephania, when her

father entered, with the master of the house. Julia was hardly able to bow to them. This generous nobleman prevented her, and said, “ No, young lady, “ you have now no reason to fear : we “ have just seen the surgeon, he does “ not perceive any danger. Your father “ is quite easy. To-morrow you will “ see the boy much better.” After embracing one another, the ladies parted.

Julia, in descending, wished to have a still further proof that she was not mistaken ; she, therefore, counted the steps, and found the same number which she had observed the first time she had
descen

descended them, with her eyes covered.

As soon as she had arrived at home, she
fell on the neck of her father, and said

to him, “ Let us be comforted, my

“ father, and give thanks to heaven.

“ Yes, my son has at last made me

“ know his father. Every thing as-

“ sures me that I do not flatter myself

“ without reason. You have been very

“ ill informed. Whatever may have

“ been the enormity of his offence, my

“ heart tells me that I ought to forgive

“ him. Though should I never marry

“ him, I know at least that my dear

“ child does not owe his existence to a

“ robber. This is satisfactory, after the

“ silence

“ silence we have been obliged to keep.
“ There is no occasion to ask me more,
“ it would plunge me into an ocean of
“ tears. My fortune is too disproportion-
“ ate for me to hope to avow my
“ son publicly ; continue, therefore,
“ with me in the resolution we have
“ taken. Whatever may be the trouble
“ and bitterness I feel from time to
“ time, the consolation of living with
“ my son is sufficient for me : he shall
“ know who he is when I think it is
“ time to tell him.” At these words,
Julia raising her eyes to heaven, struck
her breast, and uttered the most painful
sighs. “ My son, hast thou been snatch-
“ ed

“ ed from the arms of death, but to
“ perpetuate and increase my grief?”

Leonora and her husband, greatly
astonished, remained dumb at these
complaints: the former approaching
her daughter, “ Julia, (said she) explain
“ yourself—deliver us from the trouble
“ you make us suffer, by laying before
“ us such equivocal grounds of conso-
“ lation. You know who is the father
“ of your son? How then could you con-
“ ceal it from us? Could you dissem-
“ ble, in spite of the sincerity which we
“ know you are possessed of? Is not this
“ all an illusion? Do you think it could
“ have

“ have been any one of the house of
“ this virtuous nobleman, or, perhaps,
“ himself, who would have disgraced
“ you? Be assured, then, that there was
“ in the words he spake but the effu-
“ sion of his sensible heart; and from
“ his saying that the boy was his son,
“ or that he resembled a son whom he
“ loved, you are not to conclude that
“ he is the father of your child.”—“No,
“ my mother, he is not the father of
“ my son: his soul is too dignified to
“ have offended me: his care, his
“ friendship will always bear witness
“ in his behalf. Why do you wish I
“ should plunge you into new troubles,
“ since

“ since the evil is without remedy ?
“ Judge from my situation what will
“ be yours, if you oblige me to tell you
“ more. Is it not enough that I re-
“ move the fear you had expressed, lest
“ my son should have sprung from a
“ villain ? No, that he is not ; I swear
“ it, and, without having known the
“ person of his father, I repeat, he
“ is descended from a man of the high-
“ est nobility. Yes, I love my son
“ enough to pardon his father.” — “ No,
“ Julia, it is no longer time to be silent,
“ if you are certain you are not mis-
“ taken. The honour and love which
“ you owe to us and to your son, re-
“ quire

“ quire from you the most sincere con-
“ fession. There is no nobility in the
“ kingdom with which ours cannot
“ bear the comparifon; and however
“ disproportionate our fortune may
“ feem, we are not in diftreff. Al-
“ though birth is not always accom-
“ panied with fentiments of honour,
“ efpecially at the prefent day, there is
“ ftill in the crowd of debafed nobility
“ fome high fouls, who, after having
“ committed an error, are fenfible of
“ what they owe to themfelves, merely
“ as individuals; therefore fhew us
“ how much you value our tendernefs.
“ My dear Julia, can you conceal any
“ thing

“ thing from your mother? Does your
“ father merit nothing from his daugh-
“ ter?” Julia could no longer resist
the last entreaties. “ No, my mother,
“ how much soever I seemed to you
“ depressed during your conversation
“ with Donna Stephania, I lost no-
“ thing of what was mentioned, and
“ it is that which disconcerts me. But
“ before I remind you of what made
“ me experience the most bitter an-
“ guish, I will satisfy you concerning
“ the father of my son. You, no
“ doubt, observed the gilded bedstead
“ which is in the apartment where the
“ child lies?” — “ Yes.” — “ Are not the
“ closets

“ closets divided as I told you ? ”—

“ Yes. ”—“ Does not the window open

“ into the garden ? and did you not

“ observe the two statues facing the

“ gate ? ”—“ Yes. ” Leonora, over-

come with agreeable surprize, fell on

the neck of her husband, returned to

embrace her daughter, and blessed hea-

ven a thousand times for having afford-

ed them the opportunity of seeing that

place of horror and disgrace become the

asylum of virtue. “ Yes, my Julia—

“ yes, my daughter, I understand you.

“ This good man has a son—he is in

“ the army—but where ? In Flanders,

“ or in Italy ? He was inconsiderate,

“ Stephanina

“Stephania said; but that he is now
“more reasonable. And you firmly
“believe that he is the father of your
“son? Be prudent, my daughter: such
“a family requires of us the greatest
“respect and caution; and we should
“dishonour ourselves for ever, were we
“to proceed too hastily.”—“My mother,
“this is not the subject of my
“inquietude. I am sure he cannot dis-
“avow the outrage he has committed;
“and, by applying to the laws, I can
“oblige him to marry me. But call
“to your mind the inhuman behaviour
“of the young Gorcia, and of the
“writing which he left when he stab-
“bed

“ bed himself. Suppose then, that,
“ constrained by his family, or by the
“ laws, the father of my child should
“ bestow his hand upon me and ac-
“ knowledge the child, what do you
“ think my life will be with a man
“ who will never grant me the least
“ portion of his esteem? Would it not
“ be better to let things continue as
“ they are, than to make me unhappy,
“ without any possible resource? Re-
“ present to yourself the melancholy lot
“ of a virtuous woman exposed to the
“ cruel torment of indifference, which
“ is, however, the least inconveniency,
“ for a situation where they must ne-
“ cessarily

“ cessarily love or hate one another.

“ No; marriage admits but of ex-

“ tremes: he then will hate me: every

“ where he will see on my counte-

“ nance the mark of the outrage he

“ had fixed upon me. Shall I dare to

“ raise my eyes? Shall I dare to speak

“ to him? Suppose even he should dis-

“ semble in company, I shall see but a

“ cheat offer me his hand, in order to

“ shut against me all the avenues of his

“ heart? If he be violent, passionate,

“ brutish, for I ought not to deceive

“ myself, do you believe that he will

“ scruple to ill-treat a wife whom he

“ has

“ has had the audacity to dishonour?

“ Think not that marriage is more re-

“ spected among the great than among

“ the people. You know what one of our

“ best friends has often told you, and

“ the dreadful examples which she has

“ produced. No, nothing is so low as

“ the heart of the great when it is de-

“ based; whereas those of inferior rank

“ often correct their brutality, or, at

“ least, are sometimes constrained thro’

“ fear of the laws; therefore every

“ thing should seem to deter you from

“ disclosing the least circumstance of

“ that fatal night, the horrors of which

“ I hide

“ I hide from myself, only by the consolation which is offered to me by the presence of my son.”

“ My daughter, your reflections are extremely judicious; but you recollect only what your grief has seized upon as the aliment to foment it. You have heard, however, the virtuous lady say, that her husband has as much integrity as your father, and was incapable of suffering any thing which might in the least stain the reputation of his family; and that had he been in the place of Don Garcia’s father, he should have behaved like
G “ him.

“ him. You have heard from himself,
“ that he has adopted your child. You
“ have seen with what zeal and care he
“ has assisted him, because he was struck
“ with the resemblance which Lewis
“ bears to his own son. Are not these
“ real grounds of consolation for you
“ and myself? or, is grief capable of
“ subduing reason so mature as yours?
“ No, my dear Julia, nothing ought to
“ disconcert you. Every thing, on the
“ contrary, induces you not to remain
“ silent any longer. I shall know to-
“ morrow how long the son of this
“ good man has been absent, and in
“ what country he is. If the time of
“ his

“ his absence agree with the age of
“ your child, no doubt will remain,
“ and you have nothing to fear, either
“ by claiming your husband or by liv-
“ ing with him. Indeed, my daughter,
“ the case of Marina is quite different
“ from yours. I will agree with Ste-
“ phania, that her daughter was im-
“ posed upon, and given up through
“ the shameful intrigues of her Duen-
“ na. Her fault, however, was almost
“ entirely spontaneous. I grant that
“ love ought to precede marriage, and
“ that two hearts should sympathize
“ with one another before they should
“ bind themselves by so hazardous an

“ engagement; but never, or, at least
“ seldom, is love followed by a constant
“ friendship, when one commences
“ where one ought to finish: and I
“ wonder not that Don Garcia thought
“ that he could not esteem her who
“ had granted him every thing which
“ she ought to have refused. But your
“ fault, if there was any in your con-
“ duct, was unknown to you: you
“ were, in some degree, revenged of
“ that outrage by the firmness which
“ you shewed when you were about to
“ be insulted a second time, and thus
“ has now laid on the offender all the
“ shame of his base action. Do you
“ think

“ think then, that, solicited by the in-
“ treaties of his mother, and urged by
“ paternal authority, the young man
“ will not perceive that he has no
“ other way to take than to marry you,
“ in order to efface his shame? The
“ friendship which his father and his
“ mother bear you, assures you of his
“ own. What man is able to resist
“ the charms of a woman, amiable,
“ modest, and, moreover, unhappy?
“ Yes, he will love you, he will esteem
“ you, because you deserve every thing
“ from him, by forgiving his offence.
“ My dear Julia, virtue, honour, friend-
“ ship, gratitude, oblige you to do

“ something for us ; and to be silent
“ in the present moment would be to
“ acknowledge your tacit consent to
“ all that has passed. You say you will
“ let your son know who is his father :
“ but this is the most favourable op-
“ portunity ; if you defer it, he may
“ bind himself by another engagement,
“ and your son will have no other re-
“ source but in the vengeance he ought
“ to take in your behalf. Have you
“ thought of the consequences ? You
“ have time enough to advise yourself
“ concerning the means you should
“ employ. We shall see the boy every
“ day till he is recovered. The interest
“ you

“ you have in disclosing yourself will
“ point out to you the most favourable
“ opportunity for an explanation, either
“ before me, or in my absence. Con-
“ sult your own heart, and you will be
“ sensible how much I am your friend
“ in making these entreaties.” Julia,
yielding to the wishes of her mother,
promised to do all that she required.
The next day, Leonora called upon a
friend, and, with address, asked whe-
ther the nobleman, in whose house the
little Lewis was now abiding, had a son
in the army, in what country he was,
and how long he had left Toledo. Well
informed of what she sought to know,

she returned home, persuaded that her daughter had rightly recognized the apartment. “ Yes, Julia, the young
“ man has been absent these seven
“ years, and that agrees with the age
“ of your son. Let us wait what heaven will decree before we lay open
“ ourselves : let us sound the dispositions of the parents, and seize the
“ opportunity of speaking as soon as it
“ will offer itself.”

Julia and her mother did not fail to visit the boy every day : they waited with impatience his complete recovery.

“ If, in the very moment when he could

“ scarcely

“ scarcely be known at all, (said they
“ one to another) the likeness he bears
“ to him was apparent, how much
“ more conspicuous will it be when he
“ is restored to health? Let us not say
“ any thing before that time.”

When fifteen days more had passed,
Lewis began to appear in good spirits;
and at the expiration of thirty days he
was perfectly recovered. Stephania, in
several conversations, could not help
saying that the features of the boy inte-
rested her extremely, and she did not
fail to speak of her son at the same time.
The child was overcome with caresses:

all the people in the house shewed him the same kindness as their master and mistress. Julia at last thought it was time to speak, and she rather, as she found herself alone with Stephania.

“ Madam, whatever may be your
“ desire of again seeing your son, my
“ heart tells me that I ought to wish
“ it at least as much as yourself. Grant
“ me the favour of listening to me.
“ You are instigated by friendship, and
“ I by affliction, grief, and, I may say,
“ by a kind of despair ; for I am un-
“ done, if I find not in you the heart of
“ a tender mother.” At these words,

Julia,

Julia, falling on the neck of Stephania, could not explain herself but through sighs and tears. She again seated herself, and, having recovered, thus proceeded: “ Yes, Madam, the day in which our little cousin so narrowly escaped death, my father and my mother imagined that they saw heaven fall upon them. Never was the tenderness of parents equal to that they bear to this child; but God, who wounded us, knew how to afford the remedy: and it is in your house he ordained that I should find the proof I want, to do away an affront which I cannot forget but by

G 6.

“ becoming

“ becoming united to that son, whom
“ you love and wish again to see. If
“ the difference of my fortune deprive
“ me of any pretension, of any hope,
“ the nobility of my ancestors and of
“ myself authorize me to presume,
“ that an elevated soul like yours will
“ not refuse me the justice which it
“ owes to an unfortunate woman. I
“ have wept, I have fought for your
“ son these seven years; but I had for-
“ given his outrage from the very mo-
“ ment in which he committed it, al-
“ though ignorant who he was. Heaven
“ has, no doubt, had pity upon me, and
“ upon my innocence, and decreed that
“ my

“ my child should be the means thro’
“ which I should discover his father.
“ Ah ! that father is your son ! it is
“ he whom you so tenderly love !
“ Could you hate me ?——” Julia re-
mained silent a short time. Stephania,
troubled at her declaration, could not
answer a word : she looked at her, and
felt herself much affected by the pathe-
tic tone in which she had expressed her-
self. Julia proceeded, and told her all
the circumstances of her misfortune;
then, impetuously, pulling from her
pocket the golden crucifix—“ Yes, (said
“ she) O Lord, whom this image re-
“ presents to us, thou hast been witness
“ of

“ of the violence which I suffered, but
“ also the judge of the satisfaction I
“ have a right to require. I have taken
“ thy image from this apartment, where
“ it formerly hung, to remind thee in-
“ cessantly of this outrage, but not to
“ solicit vengeance for it: I begged
“ only consolation in my misfortune,
“ and patience necessary to bear it. I
“ have been a mother, in every respect,
“ towards the child I have borne. If
“ he has been the stamp of my shame,
“ may he now become that of my hap-
“ piness, and, at the same time, the
“ support of my virtue! Yes, Madam,
“ this dear child, to whom you at pre-
“ sent

“ sent shew so much tenderness, is
“ your grandson. Could you refuse
“ me your affection ?” At these words
she kissed the crucifix, and fell into the
arms of Stephania.

Donna Stephania, who, to the nobility of birth, added that of sentiments, did not cease to embrace her, and bathe her with tears, until she saw Julia was recovered. She endeavoured to console her with words most affectionate, lively, and penetrating, when uttered by a woman. “ Ferocious man ! no,
“ thy barbarity shall not resist these
“ two united hearts ! Rodolpho, thou
“ shalt

“ shalt soon be overcome with the
“ flames of love !”

Julia, scarcely recovered, was still weeping, when the nobleman, impatient to see her with her little cousin, entered with him into the apartment of Stephania. Astonished at the affliction of the two women, he at first stopped, and afterwards with haste asked the cause of their grief. The boy, falling on the neck of Julia, demanded why she wept. She took him on her knees and embraced him, without answering.

“ Sir, (said Stephania) I have important things to communicate to you ;
“ but,

“ but, before I say more, I have to as-
“ sure you that this young lady is your
“ daughter : she at least is mine, and
“ we will never separate, either she or
“ the dear child, who is your own : he
“ is my grandson ; he is yours : it is a
“ fact most certain, with which Julia
“ has just acquainted me, and of which
“ yourself have perceived the proof on
“ the face of the boy, whom you knew
“ not, when he seemed to you so like
“ your son when you took him in your
“ arms.”——“ Madam, this discourse
“ seems very strange to me : explain
“ yourself, for I do not understand you,
“ and I can conceive the cause of your
“ sorrow

“ sorrow no more than that of the
“ young lady whom you have so spee-
“ dily adopted.” Julia, at these words,
felt herself greatly embarrassed: she al-
most repented having proceeded so far:
she rose to fall at the feet of the noble-
man, who raised her up, and kindly
conducted her to her seat. “ No, Julia,
“ no, whatever may be the particulars
“ I expect to hear, I will never regard
“ you with indifference. Compose
“ yourself, and let my wife speak.”
Stephania told him all she had learnt
from Julia, and shewed him the cruci-
fix, as a proof of the truth of what she
had related. He immediately approach-
ing

ing Julia, took her with the boy upon his knees, and embraced them one after the other. “ Yes, my children, you
“ shall have in me a true father, and I
“ will answer for the heart of my son.
“ Heaven be praised for such a discovery. I take the rest upon myself.
“ From this very moment we shall not
“ be separated. Julia, make my house
“ yours, and you shall remain here
“ with your son. I am myself going
“ to inform your mother of what has
“ passed.”

Fear had petrified the heart of Julia ;
but joy might, perhaps, have affected
her

her yet more dangerously, had she heard Rodolpho declare himself openly in her behalf: he was absent; and the despair of the young Garcia still gave Julia every thing to fear, or, at least, it was sufficient to prevent her flattering herself with complete success: she, therefore, did not fail to remind Stephania of it. “ Yes, Madam, it seems
“ that you recounted to us the death of
“ Don Garcia, only to deprive me of
“ any hope. What will become of
“ me, after having discovered myself,
“ if I am so unfortunate as not to find
“ in your son dispositions as favourable
“ as yours? Shall I not be loaded with
“ shame

“ shame for ever? And was it not bet-
“ ter for me to have kept silent, than
“ to have arrived at the hope of calling
“ you my mother? What will become
“ of this child, who, doubtless, will not
“ forget what has passed before his
“ eyes? Mutual acknowledgment,
“ and which was accompanied with
“ tears, and which was ratified by the
“ most tender effusion from the heart
“ of Don D——, your husband, will
“ it not leave in my child’s memory an
“ indelible impresson? Will he not,
“ in spite of me, claim a father, con-
“ cerning whom I shall not be able
“ to impose silence? I will not
“ say

“ say that your honour will be called
“ to account equally for it. These
“ faults, unfortunately, hurt those who
“ have not committed them; whilst
“ men, proud of having subdued us,
“ claim the right of cowardly insulting
“ us. No, Madam, I dare not to flat-
“ ter myself that I shall be connected
“ with you. Notwithstanding all the
“ suggestions of your heart, of whose
“ tendernefs I am not ignorant, I am
“ still separated from you by an im-
“ mense interval: heaven only is able
“ to bring the two extremities to-
“ gether.”

“ My

“ My dear Julia, no, (said Stepha-
“ nia) the tragical death of Don Garcia
“ —his writing has nothing in it to
“ trouble you. Without being in your
“ situation, I am very sensible of the
“ painful alternative to which you
“ must feel yourself subject. But I can
“ assure you, my son has a great regard
“ for us ; he loves us, and, in spite of
“ his extravagances, which, indeed,
“ gave us too much ground of alarm,
“ he has afforded us many reasons to
“ hope the best of him, since he has
“ been out of Spain. I do you all the
“ justice which is due to you, and my
“ son will do the same, without hesita-
“ tion.

“ tion. I even beg you will forgive
“ him, and I shall look upon him as
“ the happiest of men, if you deign
“ to grant him your esteem. An ex-
“ cessive tenderness at first blinded us
“ with regard to his conduct. We
“ perceive, too late, the dangerous con-
“ sequences of it. Blame none but us;
“ and we shall evince as much zeal
“ and sincerity in procuring the satis-
“ faction due to you, as we have been
“ instrumental to the outrage he has
“ done you, by our imprudent indul-
“ gence. Do not reproach us at the
“ bottom of your heart: there is yet
“ time to think better of us, and we
“ shall

“ shall afford you an opportunity of
“ doing it. No, my son was not vi-
“ cious in his nature: led into excess
“ by a wretched profligate, who would
“ have ruined him, he concluded from
“ thence that he might behave in the
“ same manner towards all other wo-
“ men. Such is the cause of his be-
“ haviour to you; but he will make
“ full amends for it, and you will enjoy
“ many happy days with him.” Ste-
phania then drawing a letter from her
pocket, said to Julia, “ Read, and no
“ longer have any fears: you will see
“ that my son has a good heart, and
“ that he is at present reasonable. This

H

“ letter,

“ letter, and some others that I will
“ shew you, have not been written with
“ a view to deceive you. After such
“ glorious attestations of his courage
“ and good conduct, I think there re-
“ mains no doubt. I already told you,
“ that his father is a man of great in-
“ tegrity: he likes his son, but he
“ would never like him dishonoured;
“ and my son knows him: he is not
“ ignorant that a base action would
“ alienate for ever the heart of a father,
“ who does not love him with blind-
“ ness; and I am sure he would rather
“ throw himself upon his sword, than
“ be guilty of disobedience. Embrace
“ me,

“ me, my dear daughter ; yes, bind for
“ ever your heart to mine. Come,
“ Lewis, come, my dear son, and re-
“ cover two mothers at the same time.
“ This is the most fortunate of my
“ days.”

While Stephania thus consoled Julia, and removed her fears, Don D——, with Leonora, took the most direct measures to recall Rodolpho, and determined that the next day a courier, with necessary orders, should set out for Naples. Don D——, after his return home, requested Julia again to recite the principal circumstances of the event.

He assumed an air of chearfulness, to put her at her ease, and amused himself with the boy during her recital. Julia endeavoured in vain to constrain her feelings: the recital affected her heart too much, she could not refrain from shedding tears. Don D—— easily perceived that she had begun only out of obedience: approaching her, therefore, he tried to comfort her, caressed her son, and promised that he would make no farther mention of the event, but when necessary, in order to point out to Rodolpho the part he had to take. In the mean time, they procured for Julia all the amusements they could contrive; but

but she saw too great a void around her to relish them. Leonora, who visited her every day, was no more successful in diverting her melancholy. They at last received a letter from Rodolpho.

“ My father, we are masters of Na-
“ ples. The French will probably not
“ return for a long time. I have re-
“ ceived two wounds, but I am reco-
“ vered, and wish that you and my
“ mother may enjoy as good a state of
“ health as myself. I haste to answer
“ your letter, that I may not delay the
“ messenger. You intend to marry
“ me ; that makes me feel more and

“ more the value of your tendernefs :

“ but is it not too early, on account of

“ my age ? Scarcely have I deserved any

“ applaufe, when you deprive me of

“ the hope of obtaining more. Do

“ you hesitate to let me gather as many

“ laurels as you did yourself. I am

“ now your only child : I conceive all

“ your fears, and more efpecially thofe

“ of my mother. But fuppofe I fhould

“ lofe my life in battle, fhould not I

“ have lived long enough, if I could

“ die with glory ? Ought I to expofe

“ myfelf to the fame hazards, if I had a

“ wife and children ? or have you re-

“ folved, in that cafe, that I fhould re-

“ main

“ main with you?’ The woman whom
“ you propose to bestow upon me, is,
“ no doubt, possessed of all the charms
“ which you mention : she has birth,
“ riches, honour, nay, every thing in
“ her favour. I wish I could answer
“ you more openly : I owe to myself
“ a satisfaction which I can obtain but
“ from chance ; and without that
“ chance, I can never think of mar-
“ riage. I know the little respect I
“ have had for myself for the time
“ past, is a powerful reason why I
“ should have the more for you. I
“ should think, then, I was wanting
“ in respect to you, if I should yield to

H 4

“ your

“ your views, unless they answer mine.

“ My father, a virtuous man, may for-

“ get himself for an instant ; but to per-

“ severe in ill, is to be a villain. If to

“ all these reflections you add those

“ which your sentiments of honour

“ suggest to you, you will not be able

“ to accuse me of disobedience. You

“ approved my design, when, reflecting

“ upon my past behaviour, I conceived

“ that it was high time to quit my

“ country; and, I will own to you, that

“ I have too many reasons to distrust

“ myself in the lap of peace and idle-

“ ness, to venture myself at Toledo.

“ I am, notwithstanding, persuaded,

“ that

“ that if any object should please me,
“ and be proper for me, I have so much
“ honour that I should attach myself
“ to it, without any reserve : the diffi-
“ culty is to discover such an one. I
“ have seen one, yet do not know her,
“ and, perhaps, I shall not be so for-
“ tunate as to deserve her attention
“ and esteem ; for without these essen-
“ tials, marriage will never be but a
“ dream to me : let time, then, I
“ conjure you—let time reveal to me
“ a mystery which I cannot explain,
“ since I do not understand it better
“ than you do. In such an uncertain-
“ ty, it is your greatest interest not to

“ recall me: I shall hereafter behave
“ in such a manner, as not to render
“ myself unworthy of your tenderness.

“ I am,

“ With most respectful affection,

“ Your son,

“ RODOLPHO.”

Don D—— had no sooner received this letter, than he gave it Julia to read.

“ My Lord, you will, doubtless, ask no
“ farther proof of my veracity. This
“ enigma, impenetrable to your son,
“ I have explained to you, without any
“ equivocation: you see it has no other
“ meaning.”——“ No, Julia, I shall
“ imme-

“ immediately send to him its solu-
“ tion, if you think proper.”—“ My
“ Lord, if I think proper ! Can I have
“ a greater interest than in seeing your
“ dear son, who is to complete my
“ felicity ? But to speak to him too
“ plainly, would, perhaps, be to run a
“ risk. Who knows whether he would
“ be pleased to hear that he has been
“ anticipated ? His self-love, humbled,
“ might be transformed into hatred.
“ Excuse me, for in this cruel alterna-
“ tive I have yet more ground to fear
“ than to hope : I commit myself to
“ your prudence, and do of yourself
“ what remains to be done.”

Don D—— wrote immediately two letters, the one to his son, and the other to the commander of his regiment. A second messenger set out, and delivered the order with which he was charged. Rodolpho, two hours after, received a visit from his colonel, who ordered him to repair to Toledo, and not to delay his departure one day later. His two friends, who had accompanied him, prepared to follow him. They went to the port to enquire whether any ship was to sail for Spain: they were getting ready a galley, which was to depart the next day. In twelve days they arrived at Barcelona, and a short time after at Toledo.

Toledo. He entered his father's house so magnificently appavelled, that it seemed as if he had exhausted all the Milanesse industry in order to clothe himself. His noble air, his dignified countenance, rendered him the most accomplished cavalier in Toledo. He was received with marks of tender friendship. Julia, who had retired into a small room, which opened into the drawing-room, felt the greatest emotion at this sudden arrival ; for she was persuaded that he would not return, from what he had said in his letter. Divided between hope and fear, she felt scarce strength enough to present herself, when she
should

should be requested. She listened with attention to the manner in which Rodolpho introduced himself: his modest tone and grave deportment, in some measure, quieted her.

Rodolpho's two friends were taking their leave, when Stephania said to them,
“ No, gentlemen, I must request you
“ will stay and spend the evening with
“ us: till supper is ready, come with
“ me into the next room and relate
“ something of your journey and campaign. It is proper that my son
“ should converse with his father alone
“ to-day.” She then shut herself in
with

with them. “ My friends, your attach-
“ ment to my son makes me hope that
“ you will not dissemble in answering
“ me. I assure you that no inconveni-
“ ency shall result to you. Tell me
“ sincerely if you were with my son,
“ about eight years ago, when he car-
“ ried away a girl on her return home
“ from a walk? I know that it is not
“ you who committed the offence;
“ therefore it is not upon you that the
“ consequences can fall. Afford me, at
“ least, the means of consoling an un-
“ fortunate family; for it is on that ac-
“ count I have recalled my son. You
“ remain dumb! no, your heart is un-
“ able

“able to betray you, and I foresee that
“you will tell me truth.”—“Madam,
“ (said one) yes, I recollect that evening
“very well: we were three, beside Ro-
“dolpho, when he carried away the girl
“whom you mention. We contented
“ourselves with stopping a man who
“seemed to be her father, and, in the
“mean time, Rodolpho fled with her
“in his arms. The day after, he told
“us he had conveyed her to his apart-
“ment; and this is all he told us.
“It was this event which induced us
“to repair immediately to Italy with
“him, and since that time we have
“heard nothing concerning it.”——

“My

“ My friends, how much do I value
“ your sincerity ! Be easy in every re-
“ spect ; and, above all, do not give
“ my son any hint of what has passed be-
“ tween us. You observed the pretext
“ I used to take you aside. We will
“ talk to-morrow of your expeditions.”

Then opening the door, she accompa-
nied them into the drawing-room.

After this confession of the two friends
of Rodolpho, Stephania thought proper
to execute her project, without post-
poning it till the next day. She sent
a man of confidence to the priest, whom
she had already informed of her design,
and,

and, at the same time, to Julia's parents. Being arrived, they went up into a room at the back part of the house, where they waited till their presence should be requested. Then entering into the drawing-room with an air of gaiety, "My son, " (said Stephania) let me speak a word " to you before supper. Though you " bring me nothing curious from Italy, " I will shew you something which " cannot displease you. With your father's permission, follow me." They then proceeded to a room, which was separated from that where Julia was retired but by a partition, so that she could hear all they said.

" Well,

“ Well, my dear Rodolpho, can I
“ deserve confidence enough to ask you
“ the secret of your letter, before I
“ shew you what I promised; for I own
“ to you, that neither your father nor
“ myself understand your enigma ?” —
“ My mother, ask of me my life, my
“ liberty, and you will find me ready
“ to sacrifice every thing, without any
“ reserve. If I had the least hope
“ of discovering what I wish, you
“ should immediately know what I
“ look for, and how much trouble
“ my heart has experienced since I
“ have seen what I have not been
“ able to make known. There is

“ no

“ no occasion to ask me more, it will
“ exasperate me too much against my-
“ self.”—“ But, my son, it is time to
“ come to an end: you are my only
“ child, and I do not wish that we
“ should be any longer separated.”—
“ My mother, I yield to the law of
“ obedience; if it be your will, how-
“ ever my feelings may be hurt, I shall
“ all my life pity her from whom you
“ snatch me, since neither you nor I
“ are able to discover her; and I accept
“ a woman of your choice, in order that
“ I may not quit you but in dying.
“ Therefore explain yourself. After
“ a sacrifice which costs me almost as
“ much.

“ much as my life, you should have no-
“ thing to conceal from me.”

At these words, Stephania embraced him, and shewed him a portrait. “ My
“ son, (said she) look, see her whom
“ your father and I have resolved to
“ give you: if she has not every charm
“ in her favour, you may, at least, be
“ easy concerning her virtue, and her
“ inviolable attachment. It is the no-
“ bility and honour of her family which
“ answer for this young lady, otherwise
“ we should not have chosen her for
“ your wife.” Rodolpho taking the
portrait, looked at it attentively, and
was

was silent. “ Well, my son, what says
“ your heart ? With a good fortune,
“ is she not what you could wish for ? ”
—“ My mother, if artists, who com-
“ monly flatter those whom they paint,
“ have not been more than ordinarily
“ correct with regard to this person, it
“ seems to me that she is at least as ugly
“ as the copy. Yes, obedience is the
“ duty of a child, and especially of a man
“ of birth ; but parents must not place
“ their children in a situation which
“ does not suit them. Marriage, espe-
“ cially, is a tie which is not broken
“ but by death ; it must then be se-
“ cured equally on both sides. Virtue,
“ birth,

“ birth, modesty, may flatter as much
“ as you please him who finds those
“ advantages in a wife, but ugliness
“ will never have attractions for me ;
“ and I think that in this I agree with
“ all men. Ugliness is an error of na-
“ ture, and it is seldom that a dignified
“ soul is to be found with a disgusting
“ countenance. Bestow on me a consort
“ who may please me, and then the yoke
“ of hymen, supported by equality, will
“ have the greater charms. If this young
“ lady be possessed of the precious qua-
“ lities which you mention, she will
“ find a husband who will have a taste
“ different from mine. I shall not dis-
“ approve

“ approve of it ; but I cannot help say-
“ ing that mine is quite different.
“ Some, infatuated by the antiquity
“ of a family often debased, wish for
“ birth, and feed upon this shadow ;
“ others require virtue in a woman,
“ though they are plunged in every
“ vice : these look for riches, that they
“ may live in magnificence and idle-
“ ness, and make themselves despicable
“ by the foolish pride of a fictitious
“ grandeur ; those permit themselves
“ to be overcome by the seducing
“ charms of beauty, which passes like
“ a dream. I am not ignorant how
“ wrong are the latter, if one considers
“ the

“ the true value of things; I cannot,
“ however, but acknowledge I agree
“ with them. Without being proud
“ of my birth, it is such as not to make
“ me envy that of others. You will
“ leave me more fortune than is neces-
“ sary to make people happy, and, at
“ the same time, to insure myself from
“ indigence. I have nothing then to
“ wish for but a handsome wife, pro-
“ vided she is neither foolish nor un-
“ steady, I shall be content with her,
“ yet in supposing she is possessed of
“ honour; then, my mother, lay your
“ commands upon me, and you will
“ find me ready to submit.”

I

Stephania

Stephania was very well satisfied with the determination of her son, whose taste agreed so well with her views. “ Rodolpho, I shall dispose of you according to your wishes : it will be easy for me to alter my project : I did not enter into any engagement for you, but with the condition of your assent; therefore be easy.” Rodolpho returned her his thanks, with most lively marks of gratitude, as they all sat down to table, Julia only was wanting.

“ In truth, (said Stephania) I do not know what I am doing : the pleasure is sure

“ sure I feel in seeing my son will,
“ without doubt, be an excuse. Let
“ some one go and tell Donna Julia
“ that we are at table, and that all are
“ friends, that she may make her ap-
“ pearance without being disconcert-
“ ed.” Julia having been apprized
before-hand, tarried a little. Rodolpho
and his two friends waited for her with
impatience. She at last entered, in
dress very magnificent and becoming,
and never was beauty more richly ap-
parelled, where simplicity was joined
with elegance, with a most engaging
but noble deportment. She presented
herself leading her son by the hand.

The regularity of her features, her large eye-brows, with look full of sweetness, her rosy cheeks, snowy forehead, and alabaster neck, formed an assemblage of beauty that struck the whole company. Stephania conducted her to a seat opposite to Rodolpho, and the boy was placed next Don D——. Rodolpho, struck with such elegance and beauty, scarce ventured to raise his eyes: he stole a sight of her, and seeing her eyes cast down, he contemplated her with the greatest astonishment. A sudden flame took possession of his heart: he said to himself, “ I wish that she whom they have mentioned had but half
“ these

“ these charms, I think my felicity
“ could not be equalled !” The more
he examined her, the more rapture he
felt. Julia, now so near him who was
to put an end to her alarms, seized with
eagerness the moment in which he
turned away his eyes, to satisfy the emo-
tions of her heart. A secret trouble
agitated her: she recollected, with grief,
what had happened eight years since,
and could not assure herself of becom-
ing his wife, notwithstanding the letter
she had read, and the protestations she
had heard whilst concealed in her apart-
ment: her breast palpitated, cold drops
stood upon her forehead, her eyes be-

came dull, she leaned upon the arms of Stephania, and remained motionless. Stephania, frightened, screamed out. The whole company, become agitated, rose in confusion to assist her. Rodolpho, after twice falling down in endeavouring to run to Julia, supported her in his arms. She ceased to breathe, her pulse stopped, and some one imprudently exclaimed, "She is dead!—" "Just heaven!" At this exclamation, her parents suddenly rushed into the room. The priest, without considering that his orders were not to appear before he was requested, followed them. Rodolpho turned pale, and was himself
ready

ready to faint ; but being ashamed of his weakness, he assumed a firmer countenance. Stephania, who knew well the situation of Rodolpho's heart, said to him, " My son, do not blush for
" the sensibility you have just shewn ;
" blush rather that you have not still
" greater, when I tell you what I
" meant to defer till another occasion.
" Know, then, that this amiable person
" is she whom we propose to bestow
" upon you : the portrait which you
" have seen was but a pretext to found
" you."

At these words, Rodolpho yielded to his passion, and, without considering what decency seemed to require, kissed Julia with all the ardour of love ; and he did not desist until he perceived that she was recovering. Julia, shocked at seeing herself in the arms of a young man, embracing her with an expression of such lively tenderness, endeavoured to make her escape. “ No, Madam,
“ there is nothing unbecoming in my
“ behaviour : you shall not disengage
“ yourself from the arms of him on
“ whose heart you have made so deep
“ an impression. My mother, without
“ doubt,

“doubt, had her views, for here is the
“priest.”

“Yes, (said Stephania) and the
“ceremony of your marriage must
“be immediately performed. These
“are the parents of Julia: both fami-
“lies are present.” They were then
married immediately, according to the
custom of the times, where the forma-
lities which have been prudently esta-
blished since were not required.

I leave it to other pens to describe
the joy which reigned in the assembly
after this happy union: with what ten-
derness,

derness, with what effusion of heart they saluted one another ; what thanks they returned to God, who had just accomplished the wishes of Julia, and of her family ; and what was the admiration, the surprize of the two friends of Rodolpho, the witnesses of a marriage so fuitable, and celebrated at the very moment of their arrival.

But they were surprized still more, when profound silence having succeeded the exclamations of joy, Stephania declared that Julia was the same person whom Rodolpho so ardently desired, and her whom he had carried away. Rodolpho, dis-

disconcerted, scarcely dared to look up.

“What, is it you, my dear Julia, who
“have been so good as to forgive me!”
Julia put her hand on his lips—“No,
“no, my dear, there is no longer any
“offence, after a reparation so glorious
“for you and for me. Embrace the
“child who is the seal of my happi-
“ness, and let him call you his fa-
“ther.”

Julia then shewed him the crucifix,
and said, “Rodolpho, kiss this adorable
“image: you knew who had robbed
“you.

“ you of it, and let it be for ever the
“ pledge of peace, which shall follow
“ our reciprocal esteem. None but I
“ could have stolen it ; it has been my
“ every comfort. Heaven is always
“ just, in spite of our errors.”

Supper was served, every one assumed their place: instruments of music joined in hymeneals during the repast. Rodolpho knew not which to admire most, the mother or the son. The parents could not turn their eyes towards this amiable couple, without shedding tears of joy. The whole family yielded to pleasure. Although night with its
dark.

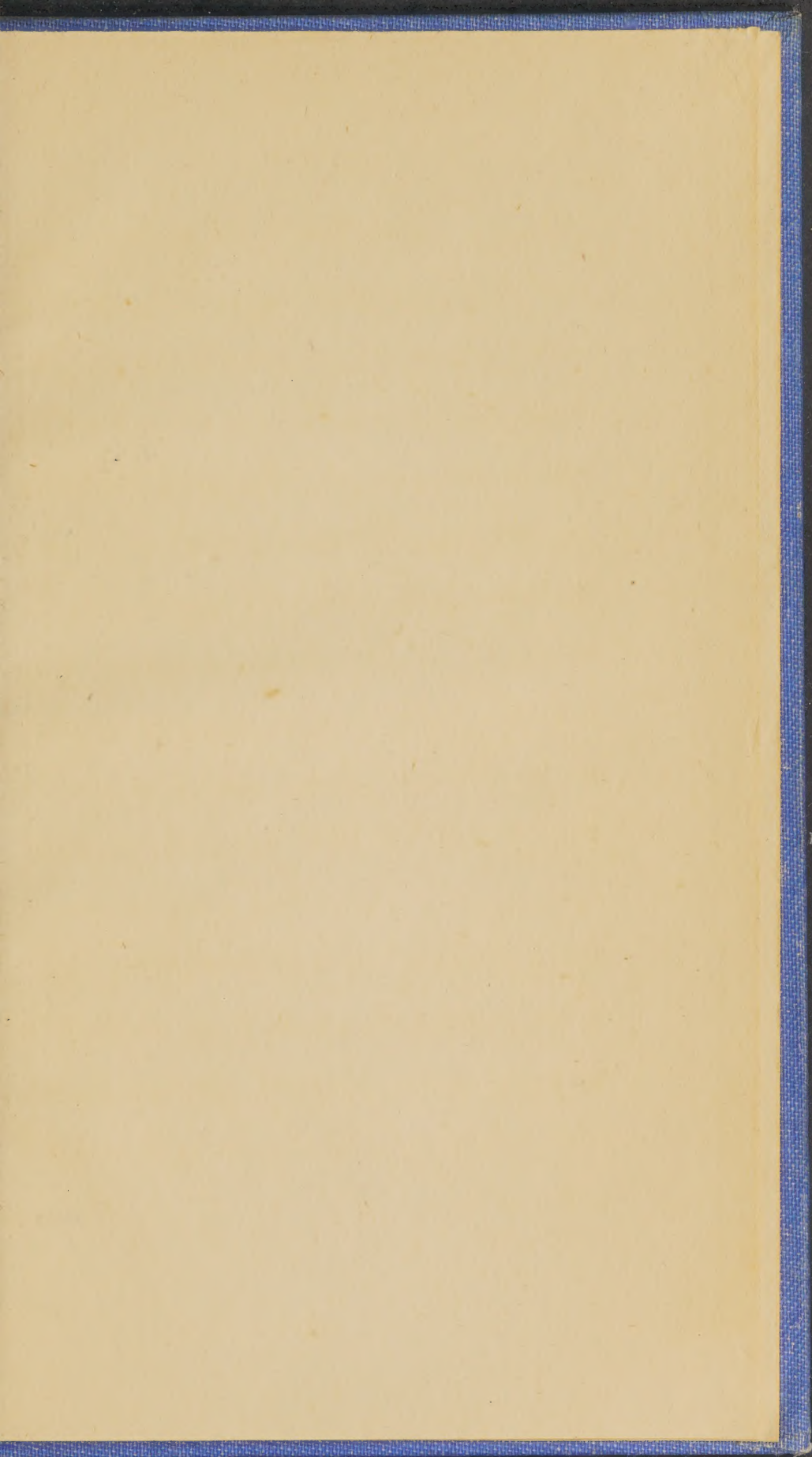
dark wings flew with rapidity, and Rodolpho, eagerly wishing to be acquainted with what had happened to Julia since the melancholy event, which became the source of his happiness, waited with impatience for the moment in which they should be alone. That fortunate moment arrived, every one retired, and the family was buried in silence; but the truth of this strange event will not be buried. The numerous posterity which the celebrated pair have left in Toledo, have consecrated their memory for ever: they are now the most illustrious families in that city.

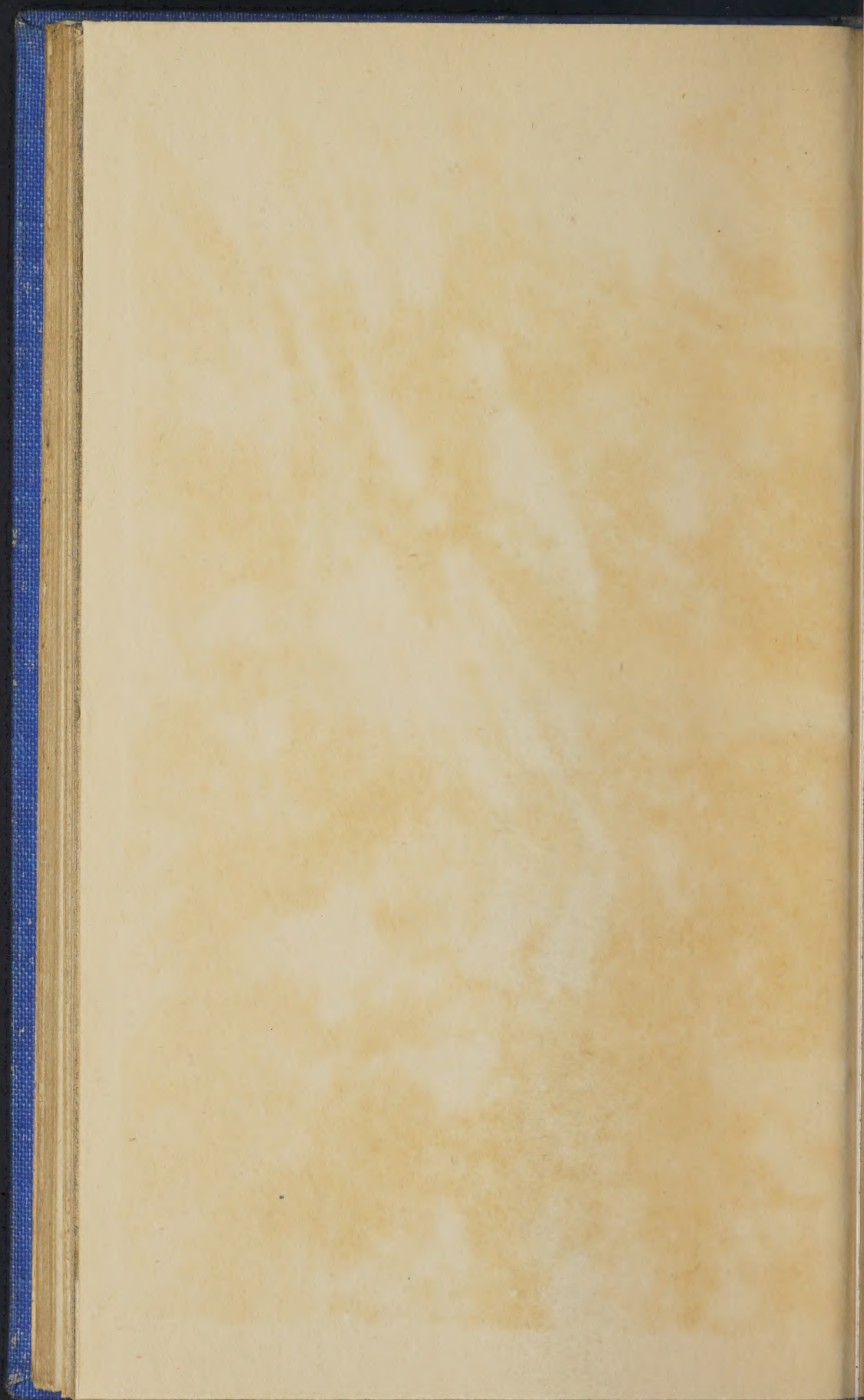
Fortunate

Fortunate fall of an amiable child, assisted from the force of blood by an incomprehensible impulse ! So true it is, that God has impressed upon our hearts a character of benevolence, which nothing is capable of effacing.

FINIS.

T. Gillet, Printer, Salisbury Square.





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